

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(5580.)

**PART XIV.**

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**F.O.  
403**

**FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**REPRODUCTION OF THE**

**AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.**

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**January to June 1887.**

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CONFIDENTIAL

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART XIV.

No. 1.

Messrs. A. F. and R. W. Tweedie to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received January 1, 1887.)

Sir, 5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, December 31, 1886.  
WE are much obliged for your courtesy in writing us with the present position of affairs in regard to the matter of the claim of our client, General Hamida Ben Ayad, and have accordingly written him this day, with a translation of the same, and feel sure he will be much gratified at the kind attention his matters have received at your hands.

We are, &c.  
(Signed) A. F. AND R. W. TWEEDIE.

No. 2.

Sir J. Parncefote to Consul-General Playfair.

(No. 1.)  
Sir, Foreign Office, January 1, 1887.  
WITH reference to your despatch No. 8 of the 21st ultimo, the substance of which was communicated to Messrs. Tweedie, I am directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,\* in which his Excellency reports that he has brought the case of General Hamida Ben Ayad to the notice of M. Flourens, the newly-appointed French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 3.

Sir J. Parncefote to Messrs. Tweedie.

Gentlemen, Foreign Office, January 2, 1887.  
WITH reference to the concluding portion of the letter from this Office of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acquaint you that a despatch, dated the 30th ultimo, has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in which his Excellency reports that he had the day before spoken to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to the case of General Hamid Bensaïd.

Viscount Lyons explained the case to M. Flourens, and requested his Excellency to recommend it to M. Massicault, the new Resident-General at Tunis. M. Flourens took a note of what his Lordship had said, and promised to attend to the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.



## No. 4.

*The Secretary of State to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 22.) *Foreign Office, January 12, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 276 of December 12, 1886: see Part XIII, No. 151.]

## No. 5.

*The Secretary of State to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 2.) *Foreign Office, January 12, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 276 of December 12: see Part XIII, No. 151; and Inclosure in Sir L. West's No. 279 of December 18, 1886.]

## No. 6.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received January 17.)*

(No. 1. Africa. Confidential.) *Rome, January 11, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
SIR DRUMMOND HAY, late Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the Emperor of Morocco, has come to Rome for a couple of months, and as I knew Count Robilant would be glad to make his acquaintance, I asked leave to present Sir Drummond Hay to him, and accompanied him on Monday to the Foreign Office.

The conversation turned naturally on the condition and prospects of the country in which Sir Drummond Hay has so ably represented Her Majesty's Government for the last forty years, and Count Robilant listened with the greatest interest to his description of the country and its resources, and the character of its inhabitants and their good qualities; at the same time, while he described the Government as one of the most detestable it was possible to conceive, he stated it had been the object of his most earnest efforts to support the authority of the Sultan against the intrigues that were incessantly carried on with the view of dethroning him and replacing him by the Sherouf of Wazan, who would be a mere tool in the hands of the French.

Sir D. Hay said, looking at the position of France, it was only natural that she should endeavour to become possessor of such a splendid country, which was evidently on the verge of dissolution; but it was equally natural, as it was the duty of all the other nations interested in the Mediterranean, to do all in their power to prevent such a consummation, which, if once effected, would make France absolute mistress of that sea; if ever the strip of land which forms the southern shores of the Straits of Gibraltar were to fall into the hands of a single Great Power, either by the gradual development of a Protectorate or by a bold coup de main, Gibraltar itself would become useless, and Italy, Spain, England, and even Austria would find themselves shut up as in a trap. Hitherto the disruption of the Moorish Empire has been prevented, and of this Sir D. Hay thought he might take some credit to himself; but the possibility of a catastrophe which might put an end to the free passage of the Straits of Gibraltar is one that ought to occupy the serious attention of all the Powers interested in the Mediterranean, with a view of showing France, while evincing to her the utmost consideration and conciliatory feeling, that any attempt on her part even to introduce the small edge of a Protectorate into Morocco would be opposed by one and all.

Sir D. Hay mentioned that one of the means that might serve to accustom the Sultan and his people to the idea of a French Protectorate was a suggestion put forward by M. Féraud, the French Minister, for the establishment of a public market outside the frontier town of Ouchda, under the dual superintendence of a French as well as of a Moorish Governor—a well-devised scheme which, however, might be rendered harmless by the Moorish Government insisting on the market being held, if it is ever established, on the French side of the frontier.

Count Robilant said he was happy to say that the views of the Italian Government on the subject of Morocco were entirely in conformity with those expressed by Sir J. D.

\* Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 4); Sir A. Paget (No. 7); Sir E. Malet (No. 17); Mr. Corbett (No. 1); Lord Vivian (No. 5); Sir Clare Ford (No. 3); and Mr. Pater (No. 3).

Hay. The Italian phrase "piove sopra di un bagnato"—(it rains upon a man already soaked through)—might be employed to describe what he felt on the subject; and he was particularly glad to think that, having heard this statement made in the presence of Her Majesty's Ambassador, he might consider it to be entirely in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government.

On leaving, Sir J. D. Hay said he had spoken with the utmost frankness, believing, as he did, that the interests of England and Italy were alike in this as in other questions, and he placed himself entirely at the disposal of Count Robilant in the event of his wishing to have any further or special information on the subject of Morocco.

When I met Count Robilant the same evening at the Palace he expressed very warmly to me the interest he had taken in Sir J. D. Hay's statements and the pleasure he had derived from making his acquaintance. His Excellency added that, from the latest information he had received, the French were now directing their attention to the Atlantic coast of Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

## No. 7.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received January 20.)*

(No. 1. Confidential.) *Tangier, January 14, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Féraud and M. Scovasso, the French and Italian Ministers respectively, who were during the last three months at the city of Morocco, where the Sultan is at present residing, returned here the day before yesterday.

I learn, in strict confidence, from M. Scovasso, that though M. Féraud had declared to all his colleagues, before he proceeded to the Moorish Court, he would not have to treat with the Sultan on the subject of a rectification of the Mauro-Algerine frontier, the sole scope of the French Minister's Mission was the settlement of certain frontier lines and questions.

M. Scovasso was secretly consulted by the Sultan on these matters, but though the Italian Minister strongly advised His Sheroufian Majesty to avoid making rectifications and other concessions demanded by offering to submit the questions under discussion for decision to the arbitrament of some mutual friendly Government, the Sultan suddenly conceded M. Féraud's demand for the cession of a district described under the name of Genan Borrig, stated to be in the direction of Figuig.

The Sultan, on being reproached by M. Scovasso for having acted with precipitation, defended himself under the plea that the ceded district was Algerian territory when Algeria was under Turkish domination.

With regard to matters in the direction of Ouchda, M. Scovasso was assured by the Moorish Ministers that the Sultan had successfully resisted M. Féraud's demand; that a public market-place should be built in the vicinity of Ouchda for the convenience of the populations on both sides of the frontier, and that a French Consul should be permitted to reside at Ouchda.

Notwithstanding the assertion of the Moorish Minister, I think it will most likely transpire later that in this matter, too, M. Féraud has been successful in imposing his wishes on the Sultan.

In a day or two I will do myself the honour of detailing to your Lordship the import of M. Féraud's proceedings. The cession obtained by him is not one that can have immediate regrettable consequences, and is chiefly of value as marking the active corroding influence on the Maroquine possessions of the French neighbourhood.

M. Scovasso is most anxious that the fact of his having been consulted by the Sultan should not become known, nor that he communicated to me the success of M. Féraud's proceedings.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 8.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sandwith.*

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of 11th.\*

Law Officers consider General Ben Ayad was bound to take steps to defend his rights before the French Tribunal in Tunis, and, having failed to do so, will, nevertheless, be bound by decision of that Tribunal.

Foreign Office, January 20, 1887.

No. 9.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)*

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Tunis, January 18, 1887.

DURING the last two or three weeks the Port of Goletta has been visited by torpedo vessels which come and go. It is said that they have been engaged in sinking torpedoes on the coast between Bona in Algeria and the Tunisian frontier. These are connected with the shore by electric wires which are united at different points on the coast to facilitate their explosion in case of need.

I am informed that a contract has been entered into for supplying with meat till the end of September French vessels of war to be stationed at Bizerta and Goletta. From the extent of the contract made it would appear that the two vessels expected are larger than those usually on this station.

A few engineers are still engaged at Bizerta in making trigonometrical surveys of the land adjacent to the lake.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 10.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, Foreign Office.—(Received January 26.)*

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 17, 1887.

I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a Circular despatch received by me from Cid Emfadi Gharneet, the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling upon me to obtain the immediate suppression of all the newspapers published by British subjects in Tangier.

This question of prohibiting the publication in Morocco of foreign newspapers was so fully reported upon by Mr. White in his despatch to Lord Rosebery No. 48 of the 3rd August last, that I feel I should be trespassing upon your Lordship's time by entering upon it again.

I would merely venture to suggest to your Lordship that I should be authorized to address the Moorish Minister a reply couched in the terms of the draft herein submitted to your Lordship's consideration.

I have reason to believe that the Moorish Government is not very keen itself upon dealing a death-blow to the Tangier press, which, after all, does probably more good than harm, and that my advice for the promulgation of a Moorish Press Law will have the immediate result of delaying, if not of ultimately moderating, the radical measures which Cid Emfadi Gharneet is now moving me—all the newspapers in Tangier are published by British subjects—to adopt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

\* Not printed.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*Circular Despatch addressed to the Foreign Representatives in Morocco by Cid Emfadi Gharneet.*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

A SHEREEFIAN Order had been formerly addressed to the Naib Cid Mohammed Bargash to communicate with the Representatives [of foreign Powers] regarding the suppression of the newspapers which are printed at Tangier, for they are published without the permission of the law; not only so, but their publication is contrary to the customs of this country, where there is no special Law to regulate it as in other countries; and if we wish to enforce the above decision, there is no machinery by which we can carry it out, as those who publish these newspapers are not subjects of our nation, but each one is placed under an authority of his own nationality. Now the offensive attitude of these newspapers towards the subjects of [Christian] nations, their calumnies on the reputation of people, and the falsehoods they publish against this Government, and its officials, have increased. If we pass over this in silence it will assume greater proportions, and they will be exposed to personal violence, they as well as the officials in Government service, whom we are bound to protect from wrong on the part of others.

His Shereefian Majesty was under the impression that the newspapers had been suppressed, but lo! when Meakin, the Englishman, came up to Morocco, it came to the knowledge of His Shereefian Majesty that he had said that they continued to be published. The Sultan was much surprised at this, and he heard also in these last days that in one of the Tangier papers, dated the 10th November, a statement was published concerning this Government which is not correct, and which might bring harm upon it, particularly [as coming] from these newspapers, because they are published without His Majesty's permission; therefore, our Master has decreed their suppression, and they are not allowed to be printed at all in this country, except by His Majesty's permission, and His Majesty has ordered me to inform you of this, O friend, as well as all the Representatives, in order that you may insist upon the suppression of the papers which are printed at Tangier before any harm has resulted to this Government, or to the Representatives, or to foreign subjects, or any of those who are in official positions; for the Government is bound by Treaty to cause these persons to be respected and to protect them from wrong, and, in the second place, I have to renew my protest, in order that the Government may not bear the responsibility of whatever may happen if the execution of this Shereefian order is delayed.

Peace.

Finished the 20th Rebia 1, 1304, corresponding with the 20th December, 1886.

(Signed)

MUHAMMAD EL MUFADDAL BEN  
MUHAMMAD GHARNEET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

*Draft of proposed Reply by Mr. Kirby Green to Cid Emfadi Gharneet's Circular Despatch of the 20th December, 1886.*

(After compliments.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 26th December, 1886 (20th Rebia 1, 1304), calling upon me, for the reasons fully detailed in your Excellency despatch, to cause the immediate suppression of the newspapers which are published here by British subjects.

Whilst admitting the competence of the Moorish Government to act in the manner indicated in your Excellency's aforesaid communication, still I would venture to suggest, in the guise of friendly advice, that the summary suppression of the newspapers in question, some of which have been allowed to be published for a term extending now over five years, might cause much more evil and annoyance to the Sultan's Government than it can be said the present comments of the newspapers are capable of doing.

The absence hitherto of a Press Law in this country is not surprising, nor do I share your Excellency's opinion that that absence ought to be considered a sufficient obstacle to the promulgation of such a Law, the necessity of it having arisen. The Law would not only be a safeguard and cover the responsibility of the Moorish Government, but it would at the same time secure the co-operation of all the foreign Representatives in having its terms properly observed by the foreigners residing in Morocco.

Peace.

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## No. 11.

*Mr. Kirby Green to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, Foreign Office.—(Received January 28.)*

(No. 4. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 18, 1887.*

IN my despatch No. 1, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I had the honour to announce to your Lordship that I had been informed, in a manner that left no doubt on the subject, that the Sultan of Morocco had ceded to France on the demand of the French Minister a district named Genan Borzig, said to be only four hours distant (about 12 miles) from Figing.

I have since had opportunities of conversing on this occurrence with my Spanish and Italian colleagues, who both take a very serious view of it. The former, Señor Diosdado, however, still is disposed to doubt the cession having been made, though M. Scovasso declares that the Sultan himself informed him of it.

Señor Diosdado lays considerable value on the advice which both he and Sir John Drummond Hay tendered to the Sultan during their mission to the Moorish Court in the spring of 1882, and is unwilling to think that the Sultan has overlooked the promise which my predecessor always considered had been given him by reigning Moorish Sovereigns, that whenever France or any foreign Power put forward a demand for a cession of territory the British Representative should be immediately informed of it, in order that the advice of Her Majesty's Government might be obtained before the Sultan came to a decision on the matter.\*

If, however, the Spanish Minister is wrong in thus trusting the wisdom of the Sultan, then he, Señor Diosdado, would consider the step gained by M. Féraud as most disastrous to Morocco, for it would mark, firstly, the determination of France to advance, secondly, the inability of the Sultan to resist that determination, and, probably, thirdly, the platonic nature of the opposition of other Powers to French encroachments on Morocco.

Before proceeding further, I venture to here draw your Lordship's attention to the assurances given in September last—at the very time that M. Féraud was preparing to leave for the Moorish Court—by M. de Freycinet to Mr. Egerton (Mr. Egerton's despatch No. 800, Confidential, of the 27th September, 1886), that the French Minister's instructions were to keep quiet, and not to raise fresh questions on frontier complications in this part of the world. Those assurances were echoed by M. Féraud to his colleagues when they took leave of him prior to his departure for the city of Morocco. These two official declarations ought to add weight to Señor Diosdado's hope that, after all, the cession of territory has not been finally admitted by the Sultan.

Yet Señor Diosdado has deemed it his duty to at once draw the attention of the Spanish Government to the serious turn which will have been given to the political situation in Morocco should the report about Genan Borzig be confirmed, and he has done me the honour of extending to me the confidence which he had always evinced towards my predecessor, by reading to me the Report which he has addressed to Señor Moret on this subject.

My Spanish colleague's arguments are all conceived in the same spirit as those of Sir John Drummond Hay, who attached the greatest importance to the conservation of the political *status quo* in Morocco, and the consequent maintenance of the integrity of its territory. I feel it would be presumptuous in me to endeavour to repeat, or even summarize, the arguments with which my predecessor always so forcibly supported a policy which he had successfully practised for nearly half-a-century; but the following paragraph which I quote from Sir John Drummond Hay's despatch to Lord Granville No. 24, Secret, of the 24th March, 1884, I am sure is deserving of the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government at the present juncture:—

"Under these circumstances, I venture to submit that no time should be lost in coming to an understanding with other Powers regarding the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Morocco, occupying as it does by its northern seaboard the passage to the Mediterranean for the shipping and commerce of all nations. If the Powers of Europe and America entered into an international arrangement by which the integrity of Morocco would be upheld and the independence of its Sovereign maintained, that would be a fitting time to require, and even to insist, that the Sultan and his Government should introduce reforms and improvements for the benefit of the civilized

\* *Vide Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 22, Confidential, of May 14, 1882.*

world, and open the great resources of this country, rich in agricultural produce and minerals, to foreign enterprise."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## No. 12.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 28.)*

(No. 10. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Washington, January 18, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 979 and 291 of the 18th and 25th ultimo,\* I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have reason to believe that instructions have been issued by the State Department with a view to putting a stop to proceedings in Tangier which were the subject of complaint against the United States' Consul. Those residents in the East who have hitherto been in the habit of trading as American citizens are to be excluded from Consular protection unless they produce their naturalization papers or other evidence equally convincing and are entered upon the Consul's Register, and it would seem that the serious attention of the Secretary of State has been called to this subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) L. S. BACKVILLE WEST.

## No. 13.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 28.)

*Foreign Office, January 28, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 1 of January 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 9.]

## No. 14.

*Sir J. Parncefole to Mr. Macgregor.*

*Foreign Office, January 20, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 1 of January 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 9.]

## No. 15.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)*

(No. 5. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 21, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Confidential, of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Scovasso, the Italian Minister, this morning read to me, in strict confidence, a translation of the letter from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to M. Féraud, by which the Sultan consents to the cession of the district of Genan Borzig to France.

Cid Emsadl Gharneet's letter bears the date of the 14th November last, and is conceived in terms so subservient as to produce the impression that the Moorish Government has wished to mark its readiness to subordinate itself to the directions of France.

The letter states that M. Féraud, having explained to the Sultan that Genan Borzig, a district of more than 6 hours' extent (7 about 18 miles), is required by the Algerian Government to erect in it a battery (7 block-house) for the better security of the French possessions, and M. Féraud having asserted that Genan Borzig had belonged from ancient times to Algeria, the fact must be so; and the Sultan consequently has directed Abd-el-Malek, the Basha of Ouchda, to inform the inhabitants of Genan Borzig to whom they owe allegiance. His Shereefian Majesty in the meantime expresses the hope that

\* Not printed.

M. Féraud will cause the Algerine authorities to respect the vested rights of the said inhabitants in their plantations and other property.

When M. Scovasso was endeavouring to induce the Sultan to avoid compliance with the French Minister's demand, he intimated that Genan Borzig must be of some strategical importance; and the Sultan admitted that it commands the most important passes into the Province of Figuig.

M. Scovasso has also told me that he has refrained from communicating the substance of the letter in question to the Spanish Minister, as M. Diodado has not, in his turn, confided to him (M. Scovasso) all the steps he had taken, whilst M. Féraud was at the Moorish Court, to endeavour to induce the Sultan's Government to resist every attempt of the French Minister to obtain territorial concessions on the Algerian frontiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 16.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)*

(No. 8. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 31, 1887.*

THIS morning, in the course of a call I was paying to M. Scovasso, the Italian Minister, he did me the honour of reading to me a despatch he had just received from Count Robilant, repeating the language on British policy in Morocco, held by Sir John Drummond Hay to his Excellency during a visit which my predecessor had paid to him. Count Robilant, in company with Sir John Savile Lumley.

Sir John Drummond Hay's able conduct of British interests in Morocco during the forty-six years that he was Her Majesty's Representative in this country is so fully known and appreciated in your Lordship's Department, that I will not endeavour to repeat here all that Count Robilant states that he heard from him as to the international advantages to be secured by the maintenance of the Moorish Empire and the integrity of its territory. I need only say that Count Robilant in his despatch laid special stress on the fact that Sir John Drummond Hay was accompanied in his visit by Sir John Savile Lumley, and that Her Majesty's Ambassador, as my predecessor developed the motives of his policy and explained the manner in which he had carried it out, at each stage assured the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government shared Sir John Drummond Hay's views and were still following them out in Morocco.

I told M. Scovasso that Count Robilant's recital of the language he had heard was, I felt sure, most exact, for I had frequently had the advantage to listen to Sir John Hay's explanations of his most able policy. On one point only, and that one the one which appeared to have been considered as most conclusive both by Count Robilant and Signor Scovasso, I was convinced my predecessor had been misunderstood, though I doubted not he had been led away to use exaggerated arguments in order to enforce attention to the narrow lines within which his policy ran.

Count Robilant recounts that Sir John Drummond Hay said that the maintenance of the Moorish *status quo* would become impossible the moment an attempt was made to introduce reforms in the Sherrefian Government and to make it enter into the path of progress and civilization, for not only was the Sultan's administration so rotten that the first attempt to improve it would bring the whole structure down by the run, but also the word "civilization" was the thin edge of the wedge by which France always began its aggressions and annexations. The present system of Moorish Government should therefore be supported, and civilizing influences kept away.

I earnestly begged my Italian colleague to believe that nothing could be further from Sir John Drummond Hay's intentions than to support the present iniquities of the Moorish Government, and to bar Morocco against progress. The archives of this Legation were one unbroken record of my predecessor's untiring efforts to lead the Sultans, past and present, to adopt the only course which can save the country from ruin, and that I knew it as a positive fact that Sir John Hay's chief satisfaction at having retired, was that he would have rest from the duty of counselling unwilling ears and minds.

I would respectfully venture to suggest to your Lordship that in face of the rather narrow policy which both the Italian and Spanish Ministers are following here, almost under the open declaration that they have taken up the political running of my predecessor—an opportunity should be taken in Rome and Madrid of explaining

that Sir John Drummond Hay never opposed progress here, and that Her Majesty's Government, whilst determined to maintain the independence and integrity of the Moorish Empire, are equally certain that it can only be accomplished by inducing the Sultan to move with the times.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 17.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)*

(No. 7. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 31, 1887.*

I HAVE learnt from a source which is in a position to receive correct information from Constantinople, that the Porte is on the point of establishing diplomatic relations between itself and the Moorish Court, and that Fahri Bey (Izinganeh) is probably the person who will be accredited as Turkish Envoy to Sultan Hassan.

The Moorish Government has never been very desirous of establishing diplomatic connections with the Ottoman Government, as it claims for its Sovereign a superiority over the Osmanli Caliph; yet I foresee that the presence at the Moorish Court of a Turkish Representative will not be an element that will facilitate the intercourse of the European Representatives with the Sultan. Fahri Bey, or whoever may be sent in his stead, through his superior knowledge of the ideas and ways of Christian Governments and through the influence arising from community of religion, will be better able to teach and lead the Moors how to meet and successfully resist the progress which is so repugnant to all Mussulmans, no matter to what sect they may belong. No hope can be entertained that, because the Porte is a quasi-civilized Administration, it will endeavour to induce the Sherrefian Government to follow its ways. To show the latent strength and power for mischief of the Mahomedan world will, I am sure, be the sole scope of the Ottoman Minister's presence in Morocco. I therefore earnestly hope that Sultan Hassan will be spared the honour of being brought into closer intercourse than at present with Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 18.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 1.)*

(No. 9. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, January 29, 1887.*

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, this afternoon. He appeared to be somewhat troubled by some intelligence that he had received from the Spanish Representative at Tangier, who had informed him that the French Minister in Morocco had recently returned from a journey he had made to the Sultan at Fez, where he had obtained for his country some very important territorial concessions to the north, in the vicinity of the Algerian frontier, and Señor Moret seemed alarmed lest French influence was on the eve of assuming a state of preponderance in the Empire of Morocco.

To establish that preponderance, he said, had been the aim of the present French Minister in Morocco ever since he set foot there, and whom he described as a Levantine and a renegade.

Señor Moret averred that he could not contemplate this state of affairs with indifference; that it was a matter of the greatest importance to Spain, and that he, as a Spanish Minister, would not tolerate an extension of French territory in the direction of Melilla and, perhaps, later, of Ceuta.

He inquired of me whether I had any knowledge of the subject, to which I replied that I had none, but that I felt certain Her Majesty's Government were kept well informed of everything that was passing in Morocco by Her Majesty's Minister there, Mr. Kirby Green, and that for my part I had no reason to suppose that Her Majesty's Government had departed from the policy which they had always held as regarded Morocco, namely, that of the maintenance of the *status quo*.

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I inquired of Señor Moret whether he could give me any positive details as to what he had heard, and he promised to do so in a few days; but as his Excellency appeared anxious that I should communicate at once to your Lordship on the subject, I promised him I would do so by this evening's post.

As I was leaving Señor Moret informed me that he intended to-day to telegraph to the Spanish Ministers at Berlin and Rome on this matter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

## No. 19.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 5. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 1, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, and 5 Confidential, of January 14, 18, and 21, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 7, 11, and 15.]

## No. 20.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.\**

(No. 5. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 10, Confidential, of January 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 12.]

## No. 21.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)*

(No. 9. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 25, 1887*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learnt, from a source which I have reason to believe has been well informed, that not only has the Sultan made the cession of territory on his Algerian frontiers, already reported in my Confidential despatches Nos. 1 and 4 of the 14th and 18th instant, but that His Shereefian Majesty has further ceded to France, at the instance of M. Féraud, the whole of the country lying between the points Magoura and Ain Shair, which are both marked on Justus Perthe's last ten-sheet Map of Africa.

The territory thus cut off from Morocco, to the advantage of Algeria, appears to be very considerable, and throws quite in the shade the 18-miles district of Genan Borzig, the cession of which was obtained on the plea of having formerly been under the jurisdiction of the Deys of Algiers.

My informant tells me that he heard from the Sultan that the distance between Magoura and Ain Shair is one of twelve hours (? 36 miles); but if the German Map is correct, the statement of Cid Emsadl Gharneet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the same informant, that it is a three days' journey (? 108 miles) from point to point, is more in accordance with the truth.

I learn, moreover, that the Sultan has also given way to M. Féraud's demand for the building of a market place on Moorish territory, on the outside of the town of Ouchda, and that, as stated in my despatch No. 76 of the 6th ultimo, a French officer is to administer justice at this market place in conjunction with a Moorish official. 2,000 regular soldiers, a considerable force of irregular cavalry, and some artillery have already been prepared at Morocco, together with a number of masons and other artisans, to proceed to Ouchda for carrying out the arrangements for establishing the "police à deux" and building the market place.

Thus, your Lordship will observe that not only most important rectifications of the Maoro-Algerian frontier have been effected, but also that the Sultan has commenced to accept the idea of French assistance in administrative matters on his own territory.

\* Also to Madrid, Stockholm, Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Rome, Lisbon, and Vienna.

The following details of the manner in which the concessions were carried through in the Sultan's Council are so circumstantial that I see but little room for hope that my informant may have prematurely drawn conclusions when he found M. Féraud had succeeded in the matters of the Ouchda market and Genan Borzig district.

He tells me that the Sultan having submitted to his counsellors the French demands and Signor Scovasso's urgent advice that, as far as he knew them, the demands should be turned aside by the offer to submit them for decision to some mutual friendly Government, a prompt reply was given that the Italian Government having failed to afford effective assistance to Tunis, where its political and material interests were much greater than in Morocco, no useful result could be expected from following the Italian Minister's suggestion. As for the advantage of appealing to Great Britain for support, which course the Sultan also submitted to his advisers, they equally rejected it on the ground that England could only assist the Sultan by sea, and that, in the actual circumstances, His Shereefian Majesty had only to consider the fact that a refusal of French demands would entail the immediate advance on Moorish territory of from 30,000 to 50,000 French troops, which were probably already echeloned along the Algerian frontier.

The only stipulation which the Moorish Council caused the Sultan to make with M. Féraud was, that His Majesty should not be called upon to effect the cessions of territory, nor be held responsible for the resistance which the ceded inhabitants might offer to the French. M. Féraud, it is perhaps needless to add, accepted them without hesitation.

These occurrences mark but too clearly the complete disappearance of the sagacious and prudent advisers who formerly led the Moorish Court, and who knew so well how to avert the dangers with which the country was being constantly threatened, never giving way but when every quarter had been appealed to for help and had been found wanting. Now the demoralization and weakness which has thus suddenly set in is so great, that I am assured mutual congratulations were exchanged between Moorish Court officials when the decision was arrived at to accord the French demands. Perhaps the whisper which reaches me of M. Féraud having used more potent arguments than words may account for the satisfaction of men whose one idea is to enrich themselves at all hazards and by any means.

I propose at once addressing a letter to Cid Emsadl Gharneet to ask his Excellency to what extent the reports reaching me of territorial cessions to France are true. I shall justify my doing so by recalling to his mind the belief of my predecessor that he held a distinct promise from the Moorish Court that no demands for Marroquo territory would be acceded to until after Her Majesty's Government had been consulted on the matter.

It is probable that the Minister's reply will be of an evasive nature, stating that no cession has been made, and that only the right of France has been admitted to districts hitherto claimed by both countries. Such a reply from Cid Emsadl Gharneet, and analogous assurances from France, would afford a fair opportunity for joint action for checking future French encroachments by the Governments of Great Britain, Spain, and Italy.

But should the assurances that may be obtained both here and in Paris not be followed up by other steps, the transfer of Morocco to France would then be rapidly accomplished on the same lines as the Tunis Protectorate, and would probably be represented to the French public as a satisfactory national compensation for British proceedings in Egypt. In that case I would respectfully draw your Lordship's attention to my despatch No. 73, Most Secret and Confidential, of the 14th November last.\*

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## No. 22.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)*

(No. 11. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 26, 1887.*

I THIS morning discussed with my Spanish colleague, Señor Drosdado, the news which had reached me of the Sultan's further concessions to M. Féraud, as reported in my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of yesterday's date.

\* Urging that England should be prepared to seize Tangier on first sign of immediate disruption of Morocco.



Señor Diosdado said that he was not disposed to blame the Moorish Government for having acted as it is said it has done. When the French Minister was eighteen months ago on a visit to the Sultan, His Shereefian Majesty had been strongly advised by him, Señor Diosdado, and several other foreign Representatives, to refuse all demands for a rectification of the Algerian frontier, but the advice had been unaccompanied by assurances of support from abroad if the French Government should proceed to exact the desired rectification by force. M. Féraud had, nevertheless, returned from Fez empty-handed, the Sultan having followed the advice which had been tendered to him. Now, however, M. Féraud had gone back to the Moorish Court, had made known to the Sultan that he was aware of the cause of his former failure, and had renewed his demands, probably asserting that he did so in spite of the foreign Representatives, and because there were from 30,000 to 50,000 French soldiers ceheloned on the borders where France intended to have her way. Señor Diosdado repeated that, under these circumstances, he felt that the Sultan had adopted the only course open to him. The moment had therefore arrived when the nations interested in the maintenance of the freedom of the navigation of the Straits of Gibraltar must decide whether that freedom could be secured by allowing France to be the mistress of the southern shores of the Straits. The Spanish Minister is of opinion that neither the Spanish possessions in Morocco (Ceuta, &c.), nor any other points on the Straits, could be held the moment French troops threatened them from the interior.

Señor Diosdado then read to me a Report, which he had just received from Mogador, on the proceedings of the son of the late Sheikh Hussein, who exercised immense spiritual influence over the Soos country. Sheikh Hussein's son has not only inherited his father's spiritual power, but also his ambition; and he has resumed the intrigues with the French Vice-Consul at Mogador, who had promised Sheikh Hussein that the French Government would accept the Protectorate of the Soos country, the moment its inhabitants declared themselves independent of the Sultan of Morocco.

Sheikh Hussein's son has, within the last few weeks, raised the standard of revolt, which has been joined by all but four insignificant clans. It is said he disposes of large sums of money, which reach him from a French source, and that, as soon as he has been able to mark in an undoubted manner his power, he will declare some convenient point of the Soos coast a port open to trade under French protection, and which protection will be at once effluently accorded.

Señor Diosdado tells me that the advance of the French in the direction of Figuig (the acquisition of Genan Borzig is said to bring them within four hours of the locality) has been entirely made, with the object of working round into Morocco by the southern extremity of the Atlas mountain range, and that a friendly reception of a French invading force by the warlike Soos tribes would carry with it almost the bloodless conquest of the whole of the rest of Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 23.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 33. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 4, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, and 5, Confidential, of January 14, 18, and 21, 1887. *ante*, Nos. 7, 11, and 15.]

No. 24.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 6.)*

(No. 11. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 1, 1887

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, by appointment, this afternoon, at the Ministry of State.

His Excellency informed me that he was perfectly certain as to the accuracy of the information he had given me on the 29th ultimo, as reported to your Lordship in my

above-mentioned despatch, and he repeated the extreme alarm he felt lest the action taken by M. Féraud, the French Representative in Morocco, should meet with the approval of his Government; such an event would, he said, indubitably lead to the preponderance of French influence in Morocco, and pave the way to the eventual dismemberment of that Empire.

The ear of the Sultan of Morocco, his Excellency said, was no longer turned in the direction of English or Italian counsels, but had veered round to an alarming extent in favour of France.

On my desiring Señor Moret to explain to me exactly the present position of affairs as he understood it, his Excellency produced a Map on which was marked a very considerable portion of territory, the cession of which he asserted had been granted by the Sultan to M. Féraud during the late visit which the latter had paid to His Shereefian Majesty.

I should mention that the Map his Excellency showed me was one printed in Germany by Justus Perthes, Map of Africa in ten sheets, and that the first sheet marked "Sektion West Sahara" was the one his Excellency showed me. The line traced on it, and which Señor Moret said comprised the portion of territory which had been ceded to the French, ran from a place marked "Ras-el-Ain" passing south by Magoura, to another locality marked "Ainachair."

Señor Moret further stated that he had received reliable information with regard to a scheme which it was contemplated carrying out by French intrigue, by which certain tribes inhabiting the extreme south-western corner of the Empire in the vicinity of the district known by the name of Wad Nun were to be incited to revolt, and that the movement would be utilized by the French to intervene with the view of placing that part of the Empire under a French Protectorate. The same opportunity would be availed of in order to secure a good and commodious harbour on the coast. Should these ambitious designs be realized, Señor Moret said that the whole of Morocco south of the Atlas Mountains would virtually fall into the hands of France.

His Excellency then informed me that his object in speaking to me on these matters was that I should bring them, in a strictly confidential form, before your Lordship, and that he was very anxious of eliciting, with the least possible delay, an expression of opinion, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, as to the feelings with which they would regard the several points which he had brought to my knowledge; and also as to the important matter as to whether Her Majesty's Government had reason to alter or modify what, he maintained, had always been considered by successive Spanish Governments to be the English policy with regard to Morocco, namely, a desire of maintaining the *status quo*, and of preserving the sovereignty and independence of the Sultan as an integral factor of North African politics.

He confessed, he said, that the present state of Morocco was an exceedingly delicate one, and that he was debating in his mind whether or not to speak to M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Madrid, concerning it. He hesitated, however, in doing so, lest he should make matters worse, and, by arousing the suspicions of the French Government by a revelation of all he knew, run the risk of precipitating action on their part, which he was naturally most desirous not to do.

He went on to say that should France be determined to pursue a policy calculated to disturb the integrity of the Empire of Morocco without due notice being given to Spain of such an intention, such a course would amount to a grave infraction of the stipulations of an Agreement which had been entered into between the two Governments.

That engagement, said his Excellency, had been made at a Conference which had been held in Paris in the year 1864 on the affairs of Morocco. On that occasion the Plenipotentiaries of France were M. Ferry, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Ortega, French Representative in Morocco, and on the part of Spain Señor Silvela, then Spanish Ambassador in Paris, and Señor Deodaro, Spanish Representative in Morocco.

He added that, should matters take such a turn as to show that France was bent on territorial acquisitions in Morocco, public opinion in Spain would become so excited that no Spanish Government would be strong enough to withstand it, and a repetition might possibly take place of what occurred in 1895, when the question of the Caroline Islands was on the tapis. Apart, said Señor Moret, from the deep personal interest I take in all that concerns Morocco, I would infinitely prefer to lead any movement which sprung from strong national feeling on the subject than, by opposing it, be carried away by the stream.

It is true, he said, that Spain is a weak Power as compared to France, but other nations are fully as interested as we are in the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco.  
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and of its integrity; and we turn to England to extend to us that moral support of which we shall stand in need whenever we find ourselves compelled to address a remonstrance to the Government of France as to its policy in that country.

Were Her Majesty's Government to give us an assurance that we could rely on that support, our hands would be materially strengthened, and a knowledge at Paris that we had no lack of powerful friends would go far to dispel the storm which, he said, was impending over Morocco. He trusted, too, that he would be able to reckon on the support of Germany and Italy; but no time must be lost. M. Férand is on his way to Paris, and some decided steps should be taken before his arrival there, when the part he has lately played at Fez may meet with the approval of his Government, and lead to the French schemes of aggrandizement being a *fait accompli*.

I have faithfully reported Señor Moret's words, and I shall await your Lordship's instructions before broaching the subject again to him.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

## No. 25

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 2.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887*

ASSURE Señor Moret of our moral support in any efforts he may make to secure the independence and integrity of Morocco.  
Advise consultation with Italy.

## No. 26

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 11. Most Confidential. Ext. 2)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence relative to the proceedings of the French in Morocco, I have to request you to assure Señor Moret of the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts the Spanish Government may make to secure the independence and integrity of the Sultan's domains.

You should also inform his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be advisable for his Government to consult with that of Italy in this matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 27

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr Kirby Green.\**

(No. 1.)  
(Telegraphic)

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

YOUR despatches Nos 9 and 11.  
Sound your Italian and Spanish colleagues very confidentially as to putting pressure on the Sultan to promise to make no further alienation of territory

## No. 28

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr Kirby Green.*

(No. 7. Very Confidential. Ext. 1.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, and No. 11, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, I have to request you to take an early

\* Repeated to Rome (No. 19) and to Madrid (No. 1).

opportunity of sounding your Italian and Spanish colleagues very confidentially as to exercising pressure on the Sultan to induce His Majesty to give an undertaking not to make any further alienation of Moorish territory.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 29

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 24. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, 5, 9, and 11, Confidential, of January 14, 18, 21, 25, and 26; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11; Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1; and No. 1, Telegraphic, to Mr. Kirby Green, dated February 5, 1887: ante, Nos. 6, 7, 11, 15, 21, 22, 24, and 27.]

## No. 30

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 10. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11, 1887. ante, No. 6.]

## No. 31

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 6. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1887*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of January 11, 1887 ante, No. 6.]

## No. 32

*Sir R. L. Playfair to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)*

(No. 5.)  
My Lord,

*Algiers, January 31, 1887.*

THE last subject which engaged my attention at Tunis was the case of General Hamid-ben-Ayad.

Thanks, no doubt, to the action of Lord Lyons at Paris, I found M. Massicault quite willing to give it his serious consideration. My own task was to some extent facilitated by the presence of M. Aicard, General Ben Ayad's "avocat," who had come from Marseilles to meet me; he accompanied me to the Residency and explained all the details of this complicated matter with the clearness and precision of a skilled advocate.

I handed to M. Massicault a letter, of which I inclose a copy, but, instead of the *exposé* therein mentioned, I preferred allowing M. Aicard to substitute a letter stating his own case; it was substantially the same as that forwarded by Messrs. Tweedie to the Foreign Office on the 14th August last, but he deemed it his duty, as an advocate, to include other matter as well, which I could not possibly have urged, and which will probably predispose M. Massicault against the case. This was the question of the arbitration award of the 5th May, 1884, which must certainly be regarded by us as final.

It will be in the recollection of Government that the General claimed about 1,000,000 piastres from the Tunisian Government, and that the Arbitrators gave an award of 1,181,426 piastres against him.

He was dissatisfied with this judgment, on the ground that they went beyond

their mandat, by including debts due by him prior to the 23rd March, 1870, and taking no account of sums due to him before the same date. Had both been equally taken into consideration, Ben Ayad maintains that they must have given an award for a large sum in his favour.

On his own responsibility, and without any advice from me, he made an appeal to the High Court at Algiers, which is still pending. Our present intervention in his behalf must only be considered as affecting matters subsequent to the arbitration.

Of course, he is quite ready to abandon this appeal and all other subjects of litigation if any reasonable compromise can be suggested by the Resident-General.

The latter expressed his earnest desire to settle the matter once for all, but there is no doubt that Ben Ayad is regarded with great disfavour in Tunis, and, in spite of the great cordiality and friendliness which M. Masicault manifested towards me, I am not at all sanguine that Ben Ayad will obtain any very considerable amount of redress.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Sir R. L. Playfair to M. Masicault.

M. le Résident-Général,

Tunis, le 24 Janvier, 1887.

J'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre maintenant la deuxième affaire sur laquelle je suis chargé, par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, d'appeler votre attention. C'est celle du Général Hamud-ben-Ayad.

Cette affaire a été étudiée minutieusement au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et des juristes compétents ont été consultés. Autant qu'il est possible de se faire une opinion après n'avoir entendu qu'une des parties, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté croit que Ben Ayad n'a pas reçu du Gouvernement Beylical la justice entière que lui aurait été accordée s'il était citoyen Français.

Comme vous savez, M. le Résident-Général, on a souvent dans les pays Orientaux accordé la protection de Puissances Européennes à des personnes qui n'y avaient aucun droit de naissance, dans le but de les protéger contre l'oppression et l'injustice des autorités indigènes. Aucun pays peut-être ne s'est moins souvent servi de cette coutume que la Grande-Bretagne et la famille en question est presque la seule dans la Régence qui jouisse de sa protection.

Cette coutume a quelquefois de graves inconvénients et elle est absolument inadmissible dans un pays où existe, comme aujourd'hui en Tunisie, un système de Gouvernement Européen. Cependant, la protection accordée autrefois à Ben Ayad ne peut être révoquée maintenant. C'est un héritage qui vous a été transmis avec le Protectorat de la Régence.

Je vous envoie enjoint un exposé des cas où Ben Ayad croit n'avoir pas reçu justice des mains du Gouvernement du Bey.

Permettez-moi de vous répéter qu'aucune plainte n'est exprimée contre les Tribunaux Français. Nous avons l'entière confiance que s'il était possible de faire juger cette affaire par ceux-ci, il n'y aurait jamais matière à réclamation, mais cette fois encore le Gouvernement Beylical est en jeu et les Tribunaux Français se déclarent incompétents.

Ben Ayad n'a qu'un désir: celui de vivre dans son pays en citoyen paisible soumis sans réserve à la juridiction Française.

Si vous-même, M. le Résident-Général, voulez bien examiner personnellement cette question et donner votre décision, le Gouvernement Britannique et l'intéressé se déclarent d'avance prêts à l'accepter dans son intégrité.

Ben Ayad est à Tunis, et j'espère que vous voudrez bien consentir à l'écouter et à me communiquer la décision que vous croirez devoir prendre à ce sujet.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique,  
(Signé) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 33.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7, 3 30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of the 5th.

Tangier, February 7, 1887, 11 30 A.M.

My Italian and Spanish colleagues have accepted my suggestions to move their Governments to instruct them to obtain engagements from the Sultan to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial cessions to consideration of Governments of Great Britain and Italy and Spain.

I have been careful to leave my colleagues under the belief that suggestion is entirely my own.

No. 34.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 33. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 7, 1887.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's confidential information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, in regard to the reported approaching establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Morocco.\*

I have to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain how far the report in question is true, but you will understand that it is a matter in which Her Majesty's Government have no right to interfere.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 12. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 5th instant, I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,† in regard to the question of the preservation of the independence of Morocco.

I have to request that you will explain to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the misapprehension which has arisen in regard to Sir J. D. Hay's language to Count Robilant, and at the same time express the hope that the Spanish Minister at Tangier may be directed to co-operate with his British colleague in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy which will be the best security for preserving the independence of the Moorish Empire.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 36.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, I transmit for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and I have to request your Excellency to take steps to remove the misapprehension which appears to have arisen in regard to Sir J. D. Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the independence of Morocco.

This apparent misunderstanding on the part of Count Robilant is a very grave one. So far from considering that the maintenance of the status quo in that country would

\* No. 17.

† Nos. 16 and 35.

‡ No. 16.



become impossible if the introduction of reforms were attempted, Her Majesty's Government have been convinced that reform and improvement were the only means of saving Morocco from foreign aggression and ruin.

These views, as Mr. Kirby Green truly points out, have been constantly and energetically pressed upon the Moorish Government by Sir J. D. Hay, and will continue to be urged by his successor.

I have to request your Excellency to communicate the inclosed despatch, confidentially, to Count Robilant, and at the same time to express the hope that the Italian Government will co-operate with that of Her Majesty in urging this policy on the Moorish Government. Your Excellency will also show to Sir J. D. Hay this instruction and Mr. Kirby Green's despatch.

A copy of a similar instruction to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid is likewise inclosed for you Excellency's information.\*

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 37.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.*  
I HAVE received your despatch No. 6, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, reporting the substance of your conversation with the Italian Minister at Tangier respecting the recent visit of Sir J. D. Hay to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the language used by you to remove Count Robilant's apparent misapprehension of Sir J. D. Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the integrity of Morocco.

In conveying to you my entire approval of your proceedings, I have to state that Her Majesty's Representatives at Rome and at Madrid have been instructed in accordance with your suggestion.

Copies of those instructions are inclosed herewith.†

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

## No. 38.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 97. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29, 1887 ante, No. 18.]

## No. 39.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 13. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1887*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 9 and 11, Confidential, of January 26 and 26, 1887: ante, Nos. 21 and 22.]

## No. 40.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 37. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29; and Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 9 and 11, Confidential, of January 26 and 26, 1887: ante, Nos. 18, 21, and 22.]

\* No. 25.

† Nos. 31 and 36.

## No. 41.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 9. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1887*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 9, Confidential, of January 29, 1887: ante, No. 18.]

## No. 42.

*Viscount Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)*

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

*Paris, February 8, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 84 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a notice which has appeared in the "Temps" and other unofficial newspapers, and which calls in question the accuracy of the information given in the London "Times" of the day before yesterday respecting a rectification of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

The notice has probably been inserted at the suggestion of the French authorities. It states that what is true is only that M. Féraud has obtained from the Sultan authority to build, at a point which has hitherto been in dispute on the frontier, what is called in those countries a "bordj."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 42.

*Extract from the "Temps" of February 8, 1887*

LE correspondant du "Times" à Tanger dit avoir appris de bonne source que M. Féraud Ministre de France au Maroc, avait obtenu l'assentiment du Sultan pour une rectification importante de la frontière Maroc-Algérienne.

Aussi présentée, la nouvelle n'est pas exacte. Ce qui est vrai, c'est que M. Féraud a obtenu du Sultan l'autorisation de construire sur un point jusque l'contesté de la frontière Algérienne ce qu'on appelle dans ces contrées un "bordj."

## No. 43.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.\**

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, February 9, 1887, 6:20 P.M.*

[See No. 38.]

Her Majesty's Government authorize suggestion.

## No. 44.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, February 9, 1887, 6:20 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of the 7th instant.

Inform your Spanish and Italian colleagues that Her Majesty's Government authorize your suggestion.

Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 3).

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 10. Most Confidential. Ext. 2.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 9, 1887.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 7th instant, I approve the confidential communication which you report that you made to the Italian and Spanish Representatives at Tangier, as to exercising pressure on the Sultan to withhold his consent to any further alienation of Moorish territory; and I have now to request that you will inform your Spanish and Italian colleagues that your communication is authorized by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 46.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)*

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, January 31, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to the Earl of Idlesleigh's despatch No. 45 of the 27th November last, that since the recent return of my French and Italian colleagues from the Moorish Court I have spoken to them on the subject of the alleged cruel treatment of the Jews of Demnat, and the losses said to have been sustained by them.

Both M. Féraud and Signor Scovasso have informed me, as have also prominent persons belonging to the Jewish community here, that the Moorish Government has sufficiently marked its disapprobation of what had occurred at Demnat, and that in the interest of the Jews themselves it was not desirable to press for further reparation.

In fact, M. Féraud and Signor Scovasso declare that renewed action on our part is not expedient, as they have ascertained that some of the Jews of Demnat, regardless of the risk to which they were exposing themselves and their community in general, had evidently speculated on the support of the foreign Representatives, and had brought forward exaggerated claims for pecuniary compensation, which, if enforced, would assuredly in the end bring about from the side of the Moorish authorities acts of retribution against the whole of the Demnat Jews.

Thus, as I have already stated, is not only the belief of my French and Italian colleagues, but also of the most respectable Jews of Tangier, who are well aware that we, one and all, are ready, on every needful occasion, to protect them and all their co-religionists in Morocco from the persecution and tyranny of the Moorish authorities and of the Mussulman natives.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 47.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)*

(No. 15. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, February 1, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, and to my other recent communications on the matter of the alleged cessions of Moorish territory on the Algerian frontier, that I to-day called on my French colleague, M. Féraud, and mentioned to him that rumours had been in circulation for some time past of territorial acquisitions made, through his influence over Mulai Hassan, in favour of Algeria.

M. Féraud at once begged me to consider myself authorized by him to state that there was absolutely no truth in these rumours, for the Sultan had made no cessions of territory, nor had he been asked to make any.

I told M. Féraud that I had been assured that a frontier-line had been drawn from

Magoura to Ain Shair, and that a district near Figuig, named Genan Borzig, had been at the same time incorporated within the Algerian lines.

My colleague hereupon offered to explain to me by Maps in his possession that the localities named had belonged to France since the frontier settlement of 1845. But, M. Féraud said, he would first begin with the district of Genan Borzig. (He probably felt that I had seen a copy of Cid Emfadel Gharneet's letter to him on the subject.) Since his arrival in Morocco, eighteen months ago, he proceeded, he has been endeavouring to convince the Sultan of the sincerity of the wish of the French Government to establish a state of things on the Mauro-Algerian frontiers which will prevent the possibility of infractions of Algerian territory being constantly committed by the unruly and marauding Moorish tribes of the neighbouring regions. To carry out this desirable object the military authorities of Algeria have decided to build block-houses along nearly the whole extent of their Moorish frontier. But block-houses can only be built in countries like these where a plentiful supply of water exists, and this supply having been ascertained, after a preliminary survey by the Military Staff of the Colony, nearly all the eligible localities have been fixed upon. The most southern of these localities is named Genan Borzig (marked on the military Map shown me by M. Féraud, "Djenan Bo Zeiz"). Yet my colleague asserts, though Genan Borzig is to be the site of a block-house, it is 6 hours distant (118 miles) from the Moorish frontier, and this frontier a further 16 hours (148 miles) from Figuig. The absence of a proper water supply at a point nearer the frontier has been the sole reason for endowing Genan Borzig with a block-house, and the only question that arose between the Sultan and M. Féraud concerning the locality was the claim put forward by a native of Figuig to some of the few trees existing there. The French Representative had no difficulty in making His Shereefian Majesty understand that the man, though a native of Figuig, might still be lawfully the owner of property in Algeria.

The above explanation can be made to accord, in a rough way, with the Moorish Minister's letter to M. Féraud, but I prefer to remain under the impression first left on my mind that the Moorish Government, when it penned its letter, was under the conviction that it was parting with a piece of Moorish territory.

M. Féraud proceeding then to point out to me on the Military Staff Map the other points where block-houses are to be built, I noticed that the chain of these structures was made to end at Magoura, and I at once observed to him that this locality, in the last German Map, was marked as being well on Moorish territory. M. Féraud maintained that Magoura had always been within the Algerian frontier, and that, further, the Ain Shair I had mentioned must also be on French territory, as he scouted the idea of its being placed where I stated it was marked on the sheet of Justus Perthes.

M. Féraud endeavoured to bear out these statements by a number of other Maps which he produced, but as they none of them showed Magoura either on the French or the Moorish side, nor a second Ain Shair, he objected to the Maps as not being of official origin. He, however, promised to show me, on a future occasion, the proper Ain Shair, so that I felt he wished me to understand that he did not deny that the Mauro-Algerian frontier now runs in a straight line from Magoura to an Ain Shair, wherever the French Military Staff may have decided that locality is to exist.

My conversation to-day with M. Féraud having clearly shown that, if encroachments have been made on Moorish territory, they are of a nature that it will be excessively difficult to establish, except under a technical survey of the localities themselves, the value of further discussion of the question becomes very doubtful, unless Her Majesty's Government or other foreign Governments hold that it is of paramount importance that the Mauro-Algerian frontiers shall remain immutable after they have had a voice in fixing them. I believe that it would be impossible to secure such immobility under any other conditions, and that, therefore, it will be sufficient for the present to remain content with the French Government's denial of an intention to advance, keeping all the time a watch on each separate unannounced encroachment, so that, when it is observed that a serious and open advance is about to be made, we may not be taken by surprise or be found unprepared with a counter-move for securing our own special interests in this country.

Before concluding, I feel impelled to admit further to your Lordship that I find it extremely difficult to bring myself to censure strongly the steps forward which the French are evidently making on so-called Moorish ground.

Until a complete change for the better arises in the Government of Morocco, I cannot see how the French can stop their onward course, for they always remain confronted with disorder and barbarism of unknown depth. Nor can I share altogether the hope of my Spanish and Italian colleagues that Sultan Mulai Hassan is a sufficient

quantity with which to withstand the inroads of organized government. I consequently revert to the conclusion first arrived at by me, that, whilst we should use every effort to lead the Moorish Government to improve and strengthen itself, we must never lose sight of the fact that imminent danger to the free navigation through the Straits of Gibraltar may suddenly call for energetic and independent British action.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 48.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)*

(No. 16. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 2, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Baron Testa, the German Minister, has received telegraphic orders to proceed at once to Berlin.

As the commercial and other current interests of Germany in this country are of very small importance, the unexpected summons of Baron Testa to head-quarters may perhaps be connected with the critical state of affairs on the Continent.

If war existed between France and Germany, there is no doubt that the latter's Representative might successfully exercise his influence in Morocco for creating difficulties for the French in Algeria.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 10.)*

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Tunis, February 4, 1887.

IN my despatch No. 1 of the 18th ultimo I had the honour to inform your Lordship that French naval officers were lying down torpedoes between Bona and the Tunisian frontier. They are now continuing the same operation on the Tunisian coast, particularly between Bizerta and Goleta, at which latter port three torpedo vessels engaged in this service frequently make their appearance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 30.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 10, 1887.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 3 of the 17th ultimo, inclosing translation of a Circular despatch received by you from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, enjoining upon you to obtain the immediate suppression of all the newspapers published by British subjects in Tangier, and I have to convey to you my approval of the terms of your proposed reply to his Excellency, the draft of which accompanies your despatch.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 51.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)*

(No. 14. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 8, 1887.

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, yesterday afternoon, and he appeared much gratified when I communicated to him the substance of your

Lordship's telegram, which I had received on Saturday night, the 5th instant, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government would give their moral support to the efforts the Spanish Government might make in order to secure the independence and integrity of Morocco.

I then informed Señor Moret that the portion of territory which the Sultan appeared to have granted to the French comprised a district in the direction of Figuig, known under the name of Genan Borzig.

His Excellency replied that that was perfectly true, and coincided with the information he had received on the subject from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Representative at Tangier, in a despatch dated the 16th January, but that he had subsequently received another despatch, dated the 27th of that month, in which the Minister reported other concessions of territory of far greater extent and import. They were fully reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 11, Confidential, of the 1st instant; but, as I was anxious to see, if possible, the despatch which had been addressed to his Excellency by Señor Diosdado, I asked Señor Moret if he would object to my doing so. Señor Moret acquiesced, and sent it to my house last evening, and after I had made a translation of it (copy of which is herein inclosed) I returned it to him.

It fully bears out what Señor Moret told me at the interview I held with him on the 1st instant.

Señor Moret informed me that he had made up his mind to speak to the French Ambassador here as to what he had heard respecting M. Feraud's movements in Morocco, and that he had done so the other day. He had said to the French Ambassador: "What is this I hear from Morocco? I trust that France will not forget her engagement not to interfere in the affairs of Morocco without going hand-in-hand with Spain." To which M. Cambon had replied that he had no reason to believe there was any prospect of such a course being pursued. M. Cambon had then gone on to speak in high terms of M. Feraud, whom he had known in Tripoli, and stated that it had been principally at his recommendation that M. Feraud had acquired his present post.

Señor Moret told me that from M. Cambon's manner, and from what he said, that he was perfectly convinced he knew nothing of what had passed at Fez, or of the concessions which had been granted there to the French Representative.

M. Cambon mentioned to Señor Moret the fact that M. Feraud would pass through Madrid on his way to Paris, and that he would take care that a meeting should be held between him and that gentleman.

I inquired of Señor Moret what impression the late news from Morocco had produced on the Italian Government, and he replied that from information he had received it appeared that all they had heard of had reference to the cession of Genan Borzig only; he expected, however, to be able to give me further news shortly.

His Excellency then said that he had heard from the Spanish Minister in Berlin that he was on the point of dispatching a special messenger to Madrid, with important despatches relative to the affairs of Morocco, and that he was in expectation also of receiving fresh information from Señor Diosdado at Tangier, which he would be in a position to communicate to me on Thursday next, the 10th instant.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 51.

*Señor Diosdado to Señor Moret.*

(Translation.)  
(Most Confidential.)  
Your Excellency,

Tangier, January 27, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, Most Confidential, by which your Excellency learnt that it was said that the territory known by the name of Genan Borzig had been ceded to France, and which territory is on the road of Figuig, and distant from it about four hours, I have the honour to communicate to you to-day information of a far graver character respecting the cession of the extensive zone comprised between Majura and Ain-Schair.

Some years ago, as your Excellency can see by my despatches to which reference was made in my above-mentioned despatch, I called the attention of the Government to the accomplishment of the rectification of the Algerian frontier or of a cession of Moorish territory to France in regions where the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco find their natural



barrier of defence, owing to the conditions of those tribes dwelling in them, who, in case an army should attempt to scale the almost inaccessible heights of the Atlas range, could not leave them in its rear so long as those tribes were hostile. It follows as a consequence of my despatches and private letters addressed to the Ministers, that if the cession of Moorish territory to France to the west of the actual frontier of the latter Power should be acquiesced in by those nations who take an interest in the existence of a Mussulman State in a condition of independence on the other side of the Straits of Gibraltar, it would amount to consenting to what was allowed to pass in Tunis, and to, if not now by right at some other time by act, France acquiring the Protectorate over Morocco.

The extensive zone comprised between Majura and Ain-Schair (source of barley), which your Excellency can see in the Map published by Justus Perthes, Majura is situated on the north parallel 34 and the other point north parallel 32, north-east of Figuig; were this occupied by France, it would give that Power such a hold over Morocco that I doubt whether the Sultan would be able in future to maintain a position of independence towards the other Powers.

France would acquire immediately and in fact a preponderating influence until such time as by right she should assume a positive Protectorate. Should the Sultan be threatened nearer home, and be deprived of powerful means of resistance, it is obvious that the interests and wishes of France would preponderate over the rights and interests of other Powers, and the constant preoccupation of the Government of Morocco would consist in endeavouring to avoid a conflict with that Power, which at any given moment would be able to invade the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco without any risk of leaving in its rear those dangerous fanatical and warlike tribes above mentioned.

Your Excellency will recollect that M. Féraud, on a former mission to the Court of Morocco, demanded, amongst other things, the establishment of a zone or international concession on some point of the frontier, the construction of forts, and grants of land, and that His Majesty the Sultan informed me in the strictest confidence of these demands, and subsequently took the advice of the Italian and British Ministers as to the answer which he should give. We tendered our advice, and nothing more. That was the opportunity, in my opinion, when we should have done something more, and have thereby obviated the persistency of French demands, which this time appear to have been crowned with success.

Your Excellency will observe that on this occasion the Sultan has dispensed with asking for counsel; he has gone his own way, well or badly. No doubt His Majesty has said to himself that in order to resist France he should clearly understand up to what point the independence of Morocco interested the other Powers.

I am informed that the Sultan, before making concessions to France, took the advice of his Council of State, who—but I must state this with the greatest reserve—said that it was impossible to trust in Italy, because, that country having failed to protect its neighbours in Tunis, it was idle to suppose they would act in defence of Morocco, which was situated at a far greater distance, and that England could not be counted on, as her strength consisted in her naval resources.

Your Excellency will perceive that I have not exaggerated the importance of this cession of territory to France from an international point of view, and that the request for a rectification of frontier did not consist in merely asking for a portion of territory more or less large, but in endeavouring to obtain a preponderating influence in order to arrive at an effective Protectorate by right, if not, indeed, at a complete absorption of the country.

The manner in which the Sultan has given in to the demands of M. Féraud proves that, being aware of his weakness to resist, he yields to France.

I can hardly conceive that so prudent an Agent as M. Féraud should have raised this question had he not trusted in the connivance of the other Powers, and that they would not place a veto on the extension on the part of France of the limits defined in the Treaty of 1848,\* copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency in my despatch of the 16th instant.

I must conclude this despatch by recording the fact that if France extends her frontiers march by march, the French flag will approach our strong places, and will eventually command the Straits, which is what I have already pointed out in previous despatches, and which to my mind constitutes the real importance of what is called the "Morocco question."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) DIOSDADO Y CASTILLO.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 44. Confidential.) Foreign Office, February 11, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 7, Confidential, of January 21; and of No. 38 to Sir W. White, of February 7, 1887 ante, Nos. 17 and 34.]

No. 53.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received February 11, 11.15 P.M.)

(No. 18.) Rome, February 11, 1887, 10.20 P.M.  
(Telegraphic.)

MR. KIRBY GREEN'S telegram of 7th instant.

Italian Government have no difficulty in acceding to his suggestion. Instructions in this sense sent to Italian Minister at Tangier

No. 54.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received by telegraph, February 11.)

(No. 45. Ext. 18.) Rome, February 11, 1887.  
My Lord,

I HAVE reported to your Lordship this day, by telegraph, that the Italian Government, seeing no difficulty in acceding to Mr. Kirby Green's suggestions with regard to the cessions of Moorish territory, have instructed their Minister at Tangier accordingly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 55

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 111. Confidential.) Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 6, Confidential, of January 21, 1887: ante, No. 16.]

No. 56.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons*

(No. 112. Confidential.) Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 7, Confidential, of January 21; and of No. 38, Confidential, to Sir W. White, of February 7, 1887 ante, Nos. 17 and 34.]

No. 57

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 114. Confidential.) Foreign Office, February 12, 1887

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's telegram No. 18 of February 11, 1887: ante, No. 53.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 16. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 7, Confidential, of January 21; and of No. 38, Confidential, to Sir W. White, of February 7, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 17 and 34.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 17. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's telegram No. 18 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 53.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 12. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of No. 38, Confidential, to Sir W. White, of February 7, 1887: *ante*, No. 34.]

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)*

(No. 17. Confidential.) *Tangier, February 4, 1887.*  
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15, Confidential, of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a Memorandum made for Signor Scovasso of the explanations given him by the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the Sultan's title to Genan Borzig, the district which M. Féraud now asserts has always formed an integral part of Algeria.

The Italian Minister assures me that, when he was being given these details, the Sultan and his Vizier did not attempt to disguise from him that M. Féraud was endeavouring to lead them to fall in with his views as to the limits of the Algerine frontier. Therefore, a corroboration by the Moorish Government of M. Féraud's assertion, that he obtained no cession of territory when at the Court, if tendered, should be accepted for what it is worth.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure in No. 61.

*Memorandum communicated to Mr. Kirby Green by M. Scovasso.*

(Translation.)

SIDI MOHAMMED BEN ABD-EL-GEGBAR (a Sherref of the Drees dynasty), a warrior and vassal of the Sultan of Morocco, according to documents which are in the possession of the Sherrefian Government, seized Genan Borzig, Ain Safra, and other neighbouring localities in the year 956 of the Hejra. Since then, the Turkish dominion over these places has ceased, and they have been governed by Sidi Abd-el-Gebbar and his descendants, who have always remained vassals of the Sultan of Morocco.

Sidi Mohammed Ben Abd-el-Gebbar built several mosques in Figuig, and devoted a part of the produce of Genan Borzig and the other localities to these mosques, leaving the rest to his descendants. The descendants of Ben Abd-el-Gebbar have the documents in question.

Gharneet added that it is known that Hamida, who made the Delimitation Treaty with the French, took money from the latter, and left them Ain Safra, which locality is still claimed by the descendants of Abd-el-Gebbar.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)*

(No. 46.)

My Lord,

*Rome, February 11, 1887*

I CALLED this morning at the Foreign Office to ask whether any instructions had been sent to the Italian Minister at Tangier with reference to the late cession of Moorish territory to France.

Count Robilant could not receive me, but I saw Count Collobiano, his Private Secretary, and communicated to him the substance of Mr. Kirby Green's telegram of the 7th instant.

At the moment of the departure of the messenger I have received a note from M. Malvano, saying that as the cession in question was a small rectification of the frontier at a great distance from the sea, General Robilant thought that the Powers interested in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, instead of wasting time in useless and irritating protests, should unanimously adopt a firm attitude towards the Moorish Government, in order to be certain that the present incident should not be followed by other and more dangerous concessions calculated to imperil the situation of the Empire.

General Robilant has already written yesterday in this sense to Tangier, London, Madrid, and Berlin; his views tally, therefore, with the suggestion of Mr. Kirby Green, to which the Italian Government have no difficulty in acceding, and instructions in this sense have accordingly been telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Tangier.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 14.)*

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, February 11, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I was unable to see Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday, as his presence was required in Congress when the interpellations respecting the concessions of territory to the French in Morocco were made.

I inclose herein translation of it, together with the answer which was returned by Señor Moret.

I have an appointment with Señor Moret for to-morrow afternoon, when I shall be in a position to give your Lordship further information with regard to French movements in Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 63.

*Extract from "El Correo" of February 10, 1887.*

(Translation.)

COUNT TORENO wished to ask whether the news relating to the rectification of the French-Algerine frontier, since the foreign newspapers of such importance as the "Times," of London, and "Le Temps," of Paris, had taken the subject up, it was a fact that M. Féraud, the French Minister in Morocco, had obtained from the Moroccan Government the extension of that frontier up to the River Muluya.

Should this be the case, it would be necessary that all energy should be brought into play in order to protect the interests of Spain, which every Government should be careful to look after.

The Minister of State replied:—

"With regard to this question, nothing is settled. It is quite true that foreign newspapers of importance have taken the subject up, and that, consequently, many rumours have been prevalent, more or less worthy of foundation, in all the European capitals, and have engaged the attention of Governmental and business men; but according to what I have learnt—and I have endeavoured to obtain all the information which the importance of the matter deserves—it appears that the question has not assumed a settled form. The French Minister has opened negotiations with the Government of Morocco, some of which are of a purely commercial character, and others, as it would appear, with a view to obtaining the *vacua* of Figuig.

"Count Toreno is quite right in supposing that the Government is occupying itself with the consideration of such interesting questions, which, I can assure him, will meet with the same consideration as that given to it by former Governments."

No. 64.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)*

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, February 7, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I, yesterday, called upon my Italian and Spanish colleagues to ascertain how far they would be prepared to join me in seeking to obtain an engagement from the Sultan that he would for the future decline to consent to any alienation of Moorish territory without first consulting our respective Governments on the matter.

I submitted the question in the same form to Señor Diosdado as to Signor Scovasso. I proposed to each of them separately that we should, in face of the existing reports of territorial cessions made on the Mauro-Algerine frontier, suggest to our Governments the advisability of being instructed to call upon Mulai Hassan to engage himself to us in such a manner as that no further French annexations should be admitted by him, except after the extent and nature of the cessions that might be demanded had been duly considered and advised by each of our Governments.

Signor Scovasso not only agreed to solicit from Rome instructions in the sense proposed by me, but wished further to ask Count di Robilant to permit him, when calling upon the Sultan, to engage himself in the way suggested, to explain to His Shercefi Majesty that, should the Italian and other Governments advise him not to give way before a demand for a territorial sacrifice, then, in such case, the Sultan might depend upon effectual protection and assistance from the Governments whose counsels he would be following.

It is perhaps needless that I should say to your Lordship that I pointed out to my Italian colleague that it was no part of our duty to furnish the Sultan with interpretations of the value of the promise we wished him to make to us.

Señor Diosdado also consented to call for instructions in accordance with my proposal. The Spanish Minister said that the step suggested was the least that could be taken, whether the asserted rectification of the Mauro-Algerine frontier had been effected or not, for he felt that the question of the maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of the Moorish Empire was of too great importance to those countries interested in the freedom of the navigation of the Straits of Gibraltar to be allowed to remain without a guarantee of safety until a crisis had actually arrived.

Señor Diosdado called on me this morning, and read to me the draft of a despatch which he had prepared on the question for Señor Moret. In it my Spanish colleague requests the Secretary of State to authorize him to join Signor Scovasso and me in addressing identic notes, or a collective one, to the Moorish Government, calling upon it to give us a formal promise in accordance with my suggestion.

I remarked to Señor Diosdado that I had not contemplated communicating with the Moorish Government under the forms proposed by him, but as these were details which would have to be decided by our superiors, we were not now called upon to discuss them. I did this with the purpose of confirming my Spanish colleague, as I had also endeavoured to do with Signor Scovasso, in the belief that I had been acting throughout entirely on my own responsibility, and under no inspirations from your Lordship. I trust, therefore, if I should in any way have overpassed or misconstrued the wishes conveyed to me in

your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant, that I shall meet with your Lordship's indulgence.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 65.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)*

(No. 20. Confidential)

My Lord,

*Tangier, February 8, 1887.*

IN the course of a morning call which I had the occasion to make on my French colleague to-day, M. Féraud took an opportunity of alluding to what he termed "the malevolent reports" which had been put in circulation regarding cessions of territory obtained by him from the Sultan on the Algerian frontiers.

M. Féraud said the authors of these reports would very soon be covered with confusion, for not only would they have to face the French Government's and his formal denial that any such cessions had been effected, but also similar declarations from the side of the Sultan and his Ministers.

I observed to my French colleague that he should be more indulgent towards the public for giving credence to the rumours in question, for not every one was in possession of data regarding the Mauro-Algerine confines of sufficient value to be able to control such rumours. He himself had explained to me that all the Maps I possessed of those frontiers were defective, but others had yet to learn that Maps purporting to be issued by the Paris War Department, and to have been drawn up under the guidance of officers who had been on the Delimitation Staff of 1845, were not to be relied upon. I even admitted to M. Féraud that when I heard names of localities and Moore complaining that those localities had been quite recently annexed to Algeria, it was difficult for me to understand altogether and at once, after a glance at my Maps, which were in accordance with the complaints, that I was being subjected to a course of "malevolent reports."

In enlarging upon this matter, I purposely mentioned to the French Minister that, among other localities which had been indicated to me as having been recently engulfed into Algeria was the lake (Schott) district of Tigri. I wished to ascertain from M. Féraud whether, whilst denying the annexation of Ain Shahr (see my despatch No. 9 of the 25th January), he would claim the district of Schott Tigri as being within the Algerian lines, for Ain Shahr may almost be said to form part of Tigri, if former French official Maps are not to be set aside altogether.

M. Féraud not only asserted to me that Schott Tigri is, and always has been, within the Algerian frontier, but I got him to repeat the assertion in the presence of Señor Diosdado, who happened to be announced as I was about to leave.

Later this afternoon I called on my Spanish colleague to request him to impress upon his memory the fact of M. Féraud's claim to me, in his presence, about Schott Tigri having always formed an integral part of Algeria.

Señor Diosdado then told me that he had paid the French Minister a visit in order to inform him that he had been instructed by the Spanish Government to ascertain from him officially, by a simple "Yes" or "No," whether the frontiers between Morocco and Algeria were still those set forth in the Demarcation Convention between France and Morocco of 1845.

M. Féraud answered, "Yes; they are the same, and absolutely no new acquisitions have been made of Moorish territory."

M. Féraud then showed Señor Diosdado a number of Maps in support of his statement, and apparently repeated to him all that he had already told me about the untrustworthiness of the Maps which are available to the general public.

Nevertheless, Señor Diosdado and I remain both firmly convinced that it is most needful that the Sultan of Morocco should not neglect taking one single step which can in the slightest degree shelter or guarantee him from French territorial encroachments.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.



*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)*

(No. 21. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 8, 1887.

M. FÉRAUD also denied to me this morning, during the visit which I paid him, that there was any truth in the rumour that he had succeeded in inducing the Sultan to agree to the establishment of a Franco-Moorish market on the outskirts of the frontier town of Ouchda, or that he had now or ever before made such a proposal to the Moorish Government.

The vehemence and sweeping nature of M. Féraud's denial did not, however, prevent me from recalling to mind that on a former visit to the Moorish Court he did actually bring forward a proposal for the establishment of such a market-place at Ouchda (see despatches Nos. 39 and 40, Confidential, of the 24th and 25th May, 1885), and that before starting for his last mission to the Sultan he had talked to more than one of my colleagues of the advisableness of organizing a "police à deux" at Ouchda (see despatch No. 76 of the 6th December, 1886).

Perhaps, in view of the serious state of affairs on the Continent, the French Government has ordered M. Féraud to suspend for the present the carrying out of whatever frontier arrangements he may have come to with Mulai Hassan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 67.

*Viscount Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)*

(No. 83.)

My Lord,

Paris, February 14, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Notice which has been published in the "Agence Havas" and other French journals respecting the reported rectification of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco.

It states that it is not true that M. Féraud, the French Minister at Tangier, obtained, during his visit to the capital, rectifications of the frontier. It goes on to say that provision has simply been made for settling claims which may eventually be made by Moorish proprietors of fruit-trees planted at Djeneh-Bou-Bzey on ground upon which it is the intention of the military authorities in Algeria to build a "bordj," or block-house. Finally, the Notice affirms that it is untrue that the French Government has had to consider an international arrangement tending to give the guarantee of the Powers to the integrity of the territory of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 67.

*Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of February 14, 1887.*

"L'AGENCE HAVAS" nous communique la note suivante :—

"Quelques journaux étrangers ont prétendu que M. Féraud, Ministre de la République Française à Tanger, avait obtenu, pendant son séjour au Maroc, certaines rectifications de frontières.

"Cette allégation est inexacte. Il a simplement été pourvu au règlement éventuel d'indemnités qui pourraient être réclamées par des Marocains propriétaires d'arbres fruitiers, plantés à Djeneh-Bou-Bzey sur un terrain où les autorités militaires de l'Algérie ont l'intention d'élever un 'bordj,' ou blockhaus.

"Il est également inexact que le Gouvernement Français ait eu à se prononcer sur une combinaison internationale tendant à faire garantir par les Puissances l'intégrité du territoire Marocain."

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 16.)*

(No. 20. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 13, 1887

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday afternoon, and we spoke of the present state of affairs in Morocco.

His Excellency told me that he had heard from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, who had spoken point-blank to M. Féraud, his French colleague, and had asked what concessions he had obtained from the Sultan during his recent visit to Fez, and that M. Féraud had answered, "None," and that he had not asked for any. Señor Moret stated that he had heard this news with a considerable amount of incredulity.

His Excellency then communicated to me the substance of a despatch which he had received from Count Benomar, Spanish Minister at Berlin, recounting a conversation which he had held with Count Herbert Bismarck, to whom he had given a Memorandum he had drawn up for Prince Bismarck's consideration, relative to the present state of affairs in Morocco; and that he, the Spanish Minister, had been informed that the German Chancellor took a very serious view of the action of France in that country, and that the Government were prepared to adhere to the opinion they had always entertained with regard to Morocco affairs, namely, that it would be advisable to maintain the *status quo* in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the Empire.

Señor Moret added that he had received from Señor Rascon, the Spanish Minister at Rome, information of a similar description.

I informed Señor Moret that Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, had made a suggestion to his Italian and Spanish colleagues to obtain from the Sultan of Morocco an engagement to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial concessions to the consideration of the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

Señor Moret stated that he was aware of the fact, and that Señor Diosdado had accepted the suggestion in question, but his Excellency said that he was desirous of going a step further, and he inquired of me whether it would not be possible for England, Italy, Germany, and Spain to enter into an agreement embodying their views with regard to the question of Morocco, and binding themselves reciprocally to support the integrity and independence of Morocco, and to maintain the present *status quo*. Señor Moret then stated that he felt himself a little hampered by the engagement which existed between the Governments of Spain and France relative to the treatment of affairs in Morocco, to which reference was made in my despatch No. 11, Confidential, of the 1st instant.

Señor Moret added that, in consideration of the gravity of the situation at present, and of the alarming accounts which had reached him as to French intrigues in Morocco, he was desirous of joining the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Germany, should they feel severally inclined to take common action in the matter, in some form of mutual engagement which might counteract the ambitious schemes of France, and prevent their exercising a Protectorate over Morocco which could only result in the eventual disruption of the Empire.

I informed Señor Moret that I would bring the subject to your Lordship's notice, and await any instructions respecting it which your Lordship may think fit to give me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 69.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 124. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 16, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14 of February 8, 1887: ante, No. 51.]

No. 70.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 74. Very Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 16, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 1, 4, 5, 9, 11, Confidential, of January 14, 16, 21, 23, and 26; Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 9, 11, 14, Confidential, of January 29 and February 1 and 8; Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, and No. 36, Confidential, to Sir J. S. Lumley, dated February 8, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 7, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 26, 42, and 51.]

No. 71.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17, 4 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, February 17, 1887, 1:30 P.M.*

ITALIAN Minister has just been to see me. He informs me that Minister for Foreign Affairs had called upon him early this morning, and had told him that he did not hold to any special document being signed conjointly here by Representatives of Spain, Great Britain, and Italy, and that he would be satisfied were the text of the note which it is contemplated the Spanish, British, and Italian Representatives at Tangier are to present to the Government of Morocco should, in order to obviate all misrepresentations, be drawn up at Madrid, and after having met with the approval of the Governments concerned, should be forwarded to the Representatives of those Governments at Tangier.

The Italian Minister will communicate this information, by telegraph, to his Government.

I have not seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs since Tuesday afternoon.

I sent your Lordship another despatch on Morocco affairs by post last night.

I informed Italian Minister that I considered the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs' scheme unnecessary, as it is obvious that the Representatives of the three Powers at Tangier would not be likely to address any note to the Morocco Government on a subject of such importance without having previously received from their respective Governments the approval of the terms in which such a note was to be drawn up.

No. 72.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet*

(No. 75. Most Confidential.)

*Ric.*

*Foreign Office, February 17, 1887.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your confidential information, the accompanying copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,\* in regard to the suspected designs of France on Morocco.

I have referred to this subject more than once in conversation with the German Ambassador at this Court. On the last occasion his Excellency, who had heard of the matter from another source, gave me to understand that the German Government considered that the question was one which did not concern them, and in which they would prefer to abstain from any intervention for the present.

I should be glad if your Excellency could obtain information regarding the object of Baron Testa's summons to Berlin, which was reported by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

P.S.—February 19. The substance of this has been telegraphed.

\* Nos. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72; and to Sir Clare Ford, No. 9 (Telegraphic), February 9, 1887.

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No. 73.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 42.)

*Foreign Office, February 17, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887: *ante*, No. 42.]

No. 74.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 20. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 17, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887: *ante*, No. 42.]

No. 75.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 14. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 17, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14, Confidential, of February 8; and of Viscount Lyons' No. 73 of February 8, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 42 and 51.]

No. 76.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 125. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 18, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1, 1887: *ante*, No. 47.]

No. 77.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 51. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 18, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1; and of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 24 and 47.]

No. 78.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 15. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 18, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 11, Confidential, of February 1, 1887: *ante*, No. 34.]

No. 79.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)*

(No. 22. Confidential.)

*My Lord,*

*Madrid, February 16, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 18th instant, and to previous correspondence on the subject of Concessions to France granted in Morocco, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday afternoon, when he informed me that he had heard from Berlin that the German Government, although fully concurring with that of Spain in considering that the *status quo* in Morocco should be maintained, were disinclined, in consequence of the strained nature of their relations with France, to take part in signing any document which might or might not be agreed to and drawn up by the Powers of

Great Britain, Italy, and Spain, in order to record their views with respect to affairs in Morocco.

Señor Moret will submit to his colleagues, at a Cabinet Council, the present position of affairs of that Empire, when the question will be discussed as to whether the late Concessions made to France—which, I understand, were embodied in two notes addressed on the 15th May and the 14th November last year respectively to the French Representative in Morocco by the Grand Vicer of His Moroccan Majesty, granting the right to erect certain block-houses in the neighbourhood of Figuig—shall be deemed to constitute an infraction of the engagement that was entered into at Paris in 1884 between France and Spain, and to which I alluded in my despatch No. 11 of the 1st instant.

Should it be considered that the late Concessions do constitute such an infraction, then it will be open to the Spanish Government to denounce the engagement in question, and leave them with their hands free to contract such engagements with other friendly Powers as may be found expedient and practicable.

It strikes me that it might, perhaps, be advisable to await the result of the action which has been taken, as reported to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 3 of the 9th instant, by the Representatives of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain to obtain an engagement from the Sultan to consent to no further alienation of Moorish territory except after having submitted demands for territorial concessions to the consideration of the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

Should the Sultan of Morocco agree to enter into such an engagement, the object at present in view, namely, that of checking ambitious designs on the part of France, would be attained; whereas, on the other hand, should the Sultan refuse to be bound by such an engagement, then it will be time enough to take into consideration other means of securing the same object.

I should state, in conclusion, that Señor Moret appears exceedingly desirous that some document should be subscribed to by his Government, together with those of Great Britain and Italy, recording their joint views on the Morocco question. He is probably afraid to take any decided action with regard to France without having previously assured himself by means other than verbal of the moral support of the other two Powers most closely interested in preserving the integrity and independence of the Empire of Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 80.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 21.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.  
MR. KIRBY GREEN reports that German Minister at Tangier summoned by telegram to Berlin. Can your Excellency ascertain reason?

Count Hatzfeldt states Morocco question does not concern German Government, who prefer not to interfere at present.

No. 81.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 27.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 19, 1887, 8:45 P.M.  
[Repeats Sir C. Ford's telegram of 17th February.]

Her Majesty's Government think that Representatives at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be able to suggest the best form of note.

Her Majesty's Government are prepared, if agreeable to other two Governments, to instruct Mr. Kirby Green to concert with his colleagues for that purpose. Ascertain view of Italian Government.

No. 82.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 52. Confidential. Ext. 27.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.

WITH reference to the telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid of the 17th instant, which I repeated to your Excellency to-day, in regard to the action to be taken by Great Britain, Italy, and Spain in Morocco, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Representatives at Tangier of the three Powers would be in the most favourable position, from their local knowledge and experience, to suggest the best form of note to be addressed to the Moorish Govern-

Her Majesty's Government are willing, if such a course is agreeable to the Governments of Italy and Spain, to instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to concert with his Italian and Spanish colleagues in that capital for the purpose.

I have to request your Excellency to ascertain the views of the Italian Government on this point.

The substance of the foregoing has this day been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 83.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19, 5:30 P.M.)*

(No. 10. Confidential.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, February 19, 1887, 4:50 P.M.

GERMAN Minister at Tangier has been recalled because he has of late neglected his duty. The Foreign Office here could get no answers from him about anything for some time past.

No. 84.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 127. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of further despatches, as marked in the margin,\* in regard to French designs on Morocco.

I have to request your Excellency to procure and to forward to me two copies of the best Maps obtainable in France showing the Franco-Moorish frontier, with the position of the various places referred to in Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 20, Confidential, of the 8th instant, and in recent correspondence.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 128.)

Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 2 of February 4, 1887: ante, No. 49.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 16.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 14 of the 31st ultimo upon the subject of the Jews of Demnat, and I have to state to you that I concur in your view of the undesirability of pressing for compensation for them, and have also to approve your action in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 87.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Anglo-Jewish Association.*

Gentlemen,

*Foreign Office, February 19, 1887.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 17th November last in regard to the Jews of Demnat, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that His Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported that his foreign colleagues declined to join him in renewed action, as they were of opinion that the Moorish Government had sufficiently marked its disapprobation of what had occurred at Demnat, and that, in the interest of the Jews themselves, it was not desirable to press for further reparation.

Mr Kirby Green adds that there was reason to believe that some of the Jews of Demnat, regardless of the risk to which they were exposing themselves and their community in general, had speculated on the support of the foreign Representatives, and had brought forward exaggerated claims for pecuniary compensation, which, if enforced, would assuredly in the end bring about from the side of the Moorish authorities acts of retribution against the whole of the Demnat Jews.

This view, Mr. Kirby Green states, in conclusion, is shared by the most respectable Jews of Tangier, who are well aware that the foreign Representatives, one and all, are ready on every needful occasion to protect them and their co-religionists in Morocco from the persecution and tyranny of the Moorish authorities and of the Mussulman natives.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

No. 88.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20, 3 P.M.)*(No. 21.)  
(Telegraphic.)*Rome, February 20, 1887, 1:30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 27 of 19th instant.

Italian Government will instruct their Minister at Tangier, to-day, to concert with his colleagues of England and Spain bent of collective note to be presented to Government of Morocco.

No. 89.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 20.)*

(No. 54. Ext. 21.)

My Lord,

*Rome, February 20, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, referring to your telegram of yesterday marked No. 37, that the Italian Minister at Tangier will this day be instructed by his Government to concert the text of a collective note, to be presented to the Government of Morocco, with his Spanish and English colleagues.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)*

(No. 6. Commercial.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, February 10, 1887.*

BY my despatch No. 30, Commercial, of the 18th November last, I had the honour of informing the Earl of Iddeleigh of the step I had consented to join my French and German colleagues in taking for the purpose of attempting to lead the Moorish Government into learning by practical experience the advantages of affording facilities for the exportation of some of the most important products of this country.

On the return of M. Féraud from the Moorish Court in the middle of last month he communicated to Baron Testa and me the translation of a letter addressed to him by Cid E. Isadl Gharneet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to the proposal which we had authorized M. Féraud to make in our joint names.

A preliminary perusal of this reply, a translation of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, left me under the impression that it was a direct refusal on the part of the Moorish Government to accept our proposal or even continue the negotiations for the conclusion of a Commercial Convention, unless we would first engage to carry out in every particular ("mettre en vigueur") the Madrid Convention on Protection of 1880.

But, later on, after M. de Vismes de Ponthieu had supplied me with a careful English translation (the one herewith inclosed) of the Arabic text of the letter to M. Féraud, I ascertained, though I was confirmed in the impression that our joint proposal had been rejected, that the Moorish Government clearly stated it would make no modification in the existing stipulations as to exports until the Madrid Convention had been revised; foreign merchants had abandoned their rights to have their native agents and "semeers" withdrawn from Moorish jurisdiction, and natives naturalized abroad should be unable to enjoy the benefits of their naturalization in Morocco, except under the consent, in each separate case, of the Moorish Government.

M. Féraud having, however, repeatedly stated to me that he considered the letter offered a basis for negotiation of the Commercial Convention, I was obliged to await a favourable opportunity until I could request my French colleague to point out to me in what portion of Cid Emsadl Gharneet's communication he found an opening for such negotiations or the justification for a hope that the Sultan was willing to temporarily make the solicited concessions.

The French Minister has only now explained to me that he had arrived at his conclusions from the tenor of conversations he had with the Sultan himself, as much as from the Vizier's letter, which he, M. Féraud, still believes wished us merely to take steps for the more strict observance of the Convention of Madrid, in view of the increase of trade which the contemplated concessions would give rise to. But my colleague has been quite unable to point out to me one single paragraph in the letter in support of the belief under which he quitted the Moorish Court, and I have reluctantly come to understand that he must have had more pressing matters to arrange with His Sheressian Majesty, and have had no time to spare for the advancement of the Commercial Convention.

I will not trouble your Lordship with a detailed review of the Vizier's letter, but from its tangled preamble, in which both M. Féraud and Baron Testa fancied they had discovered the Sultan's consent to discuss the question of a three years' permission to export wheat, barley, and cattle, I have gathered that the Sultan had at once declined permitting the said exportation for more than three months a-year, during a period of three years, and then only on condition that each year of the triennial term should be a year of abundance; and that, above all, this concession should have been recommended by the counsellors to whose consideration the Sultan had submitted it.

These counsellors, however, instead of having acquiesced in the concession, had based its rejection on six considerations (five only are given in the letter). The four first are the before-alluded-to arguments in support of the revision of the Madrid Convention, abolition of native agents, &c. The fifth advises that it should be stipulated that mercantile transactions "may only be carried on in the towns and ports at appointed places and at specified times; that they (the produce) may only be sold for ready money, and that it shall not be allowed that they (the merchants) go out on the roads to meet those who are conveying the goods, nor to commission any one to bring them from or take them into the interior."

Cid Emsadl Gharneet's request, that he may be enabled to inform the Sultan whether



the demand contained in the fifth consideration is acceptable, can only be met by peremptory refusal to entertain it, for it is a naked and foolish device to close the interior of Morocco to foreign trade.

I must also draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that, in the Moorish Minister's letter, it is clearly stated that the Sultan, when submitting the proposed concessions for the consideration of his counsellors, explained that the products in question should be only allowed to be exported "on the basis of the existing duties." In my before-referred-to despatch No. 30, Commercial, of the 18th November last, I reported to your Lordship that I was careful to point out to M. Féraud that it would be useless for us to agree to alter the course of the past negotiations for the Commercial Treaty if the Sultan did not intend reducing to a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty the export dues of the described products, for the duties leviable according to the old Tariff are prohibitory.

A point has therefore now been reached where no further progress can be looked for as regards the conclusion of the Commercial Treaty, unless a new departure is taken by one of the interested sides. It would be useless to expect it on the part of the Moorish Government, and I see no likelihood of the speedy agreement of my French colleague to an idea which has occurred to me for attempting to gauge the sincerity of the Moorish declarations about the evils of the system of foreign protection of native subjects being at the bottom of the Shercoffian Government's disinclination to advance its commercial intercourse.

The proposal which I venture most respectfully to submit for your Lordship's consideration is, that your Lordship should authorize me, on my approaching visit to the Moorish Court, to ascertain the extent of the commercial advantages which the Sultan would be prepared to concede to Great Britain if Her Majesty's Government consented to drop the exercise of protection of natives in Morocco secured to it by the Madrid Convention.

From the Moorish point of view the concession should be regarded as immense, and the return to be made to us should accordingly be considerable. It would be my duty to put the above clearly before the Sultan, and prevent His Shercoffian Majesty from inferring that he could bring about the renunciation by other means than those to be indicated by me. I would also have to point out to the Sultan that the example of the British trade in Morocco prospering under a new order of things would probably be the means of freeing his rule from the cause which is daily depriving it of all jurisdiction over ever-increasing numbers of its subjects, for the other foreign Governments, one by one, would be forced into following the course adopted with success by Great Britain.

There are many evils connected with the protection of Moors by foreigners with which it is not necessary that I should now trouble your Lordship. Not the least of them, however, is that an inordinately extended list of British-protected subjects necessarily dilutes the strength of my representations to the Moorish Government on behalf of *bona fide* British subjects, and otherwise lowers the standing of the English name in this country.

But it will be time enough to enter into a full examination of the advantages and disadvantages of the privilege of protection when the extent of the commercial concessions which the Sultan may be disposed to make has been fully ascertained. These concessions then can be submitted to the consideration of Chambers of Commerce capable of taking broad and enlightened views, and not merely to that of traders of a class brought into existence through unhealthy surroundings.

In here suggesting the possible suppression of protection of natives, I have, of course, had no intention of touching the privilege which I and Consular officers have of attaching to our service a limited number of Moors. This privilege I would place on the footing of political protection, which the Moorish Government, like many other Mussulman and semi-civilized Governments, would continue to accept without objection.

Before concluding this despatch, I feel that it is needful to warn your Lordship that, if my suggestion is not found altogether unworthy of attention by your Lordship, it is, nevertheless, likely to cause considerable commotion in certain influential quarters, such as the Board of Jewish Deputies of London, the Alliance Israélite of Paris, &c.

My proposal may be understood by them to carry with it the abandonment of a number of Morocco Jews who have, by various means, secured British protection, to the tender mercies of the rapacious and cruel Moorish authorities. Nothing has been further from my mind and intention than to bring about any such calamity. I am, in fact, convinced that my hand, as British Representative in Morocco, will be strengthened in all efforts to improve the position of the whole of the Moorish Jews, by

my not having a special little band of Jews of my own for particular patronage and protection. Even now diplomatic pressure is more efficacious with the Sultan for the advancement of questions such as this one of the general welfare of his Jewish subjects than representations based on the terms of some Treaty stipulation which His Shercoffian Majesty finds galling through its being ever present.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 89\*.

*Cid Emfadi Gharnet to M. Féraud.*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Rebin I, 28, 1304.

WE have received your letter on the subject of the Convention of Commerce, in which you tell us, in your own name, and in that of the German and British Ministers, that the Commissioners sent by the Sultan to negotiate the Convention with you had parted from you before you had been able to explain to them fully the advantages that would accrue to this country from a reduction in the duties on exported merchandise, as thereby the price of such merchandise at its destination would be rendered equal to that of the produce of the land. You also propose that if you and they (the Commissioners) fail to come to an agreement touching the duty to be imposed on any merchandise, duty should be paid *ad valorem* on such merchandise.

We have communicated your letter to our Lord and Master, and His Majesty has taken it into consideration, and has commanded us to return you the answer which has already been communicated to you through His Majesty's Commissioners, viz., that all the great and distinguished men of this realm who have been consulted on the subject are of opinion that this (the proposed Convention) would produce no good, and have pointed out the evils that would result from it. One of these evils would be a decrease in the revenue from which the Government maintains the army and Administration, and the greatest of them the burden which would fall upon the people in the shape of contributions which it would become necessary to levy on them, such as gate and personal taxes, &c., in order to fill the Treasury and provide for the ~~same~~.

That the Sultan also wrote to consult the whole of his people as to whether he should accept the lesser of the two evils, and allow the exportation of articles hitherto prohibited, such as wheat, and barley, and rams, bucks, bulls, and he-donkeys, for a period of three years only, by way of testing the advantages which you say would be derived therefrom, and this on the basis of the existing duties, and on the condition that the exportation of these things take place at harvest time whenever there is abundance, for the space of three months, after the lapse of which it would cease, and no claim to continue it would be entertained on any pretext whatsoever; the next year also, if it is one of plenty, the exportation of these things would be permitted, during three months again, by way of experiment; but if there is scarcity, the experiment of exportation for the specified period would be suspended. All this would be on the express understanding that we are not hereby committed to any engagement, but that this concession is only made by way of an experiment, in order that we may see the results of it.

That when they let His Majesty know their opinion on this matter, the Sultan would communicate their reply to you.

Their answer is embodied in six [sic] Articles:—

1. The advantage of this experiment would be for others and not for themselves, and they would only reap great damage from it.

2. Among the evils resulting from it would be an abnormal increase in the number of "semaars" and of naturalized subjects, which everybody knows to be a great evil.

3. (If this experiment is to be made) it should be laid down that it will only take place after the revision of the Convention of Madrid, and the abolition of "semaars" and commercial agents, naturalization being maintained under the condition that patents of naturalization shall be given to nobody without the permission of the Government of this country, and that a list of protected persons shall be forwarded to the authorities every year, agreeably with the (present) provisions of the Treaty. The harm that would result from making this experiment before the revision of the Convention of Madrid is evident; disturbance and chaos would be produced in the markets, especially

in those of the interior, because the "semsars" and other protected persons who will repair to them are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Moorish officials, and will therefore take away the goods of others for whatever price they think proper, and will oppress the poor among the people, and they will also commit many other acts which are not unknown to you. If the Sultan allowed this (the exportation of wheat and barley) before the Convention (of Madrid) is changed, it would be equivalent on his part to accepting the evils which would fall on the people, cheating the merchants, and permitting general commotion and disorder, and the setting at naught of the authority of his Governors; this is a state of things which the Powers could not desire or sanction.

4. The conclusion of a Treaty of Commerce must be delayed till after the Convention of Madrid has been revised as suggested, for most of the Articles of that Treaty are based on this Convention, and to set up the Treaty on this foundation before its (the Convention's) revision would be productive of great harm.

5. The exportation of these articles from the markets of the interior would lead to advances of money being made by merchants on grain, wool, and the like, to their owners, and when the term is passed, and the delivery of the goods is delayed, numerous altercations and quarrels will ensue, and the good which it is desired to attain will be turned to evil. Therefore, it should be enacted that the trade in these things may only be carried on in the towns and ports at appointed places and at specified times to be made known to those who wish to buy and sell, and that they may only be sold for ready money, that it shall not be allowed to go out on the roads to meet those who are conveying the goods, nor to commission any one to bring them from, or take them into, the interior. Our Lord the Sultan has commanded us to inform you of this answer, in order that you may take it into serious consideration; men of your intelligence must know that these people are right in what they say, and if the Government does not support them there will be great discontent, for they ask no advantages for themselves, but only immunity from harm, and that you support their demand, which is that the Convention of Madrid be revised in the way suggested; thus we believe you will do. As to the Regulations proposed in the Vth Article, if you approve of them, it is well; but if you know of anything better, tell us, that we may inform our Lord the Sultan. Peace.

(Signed)

MOHAMMED EL EMFADL BEN MOHAMMED  
GHARNEET

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 10, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in accordance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions under yesterday's date, I to-day informed my Spanish and Italian colleagues that I had received your Lordship's sanction to my uniting with them in endeavouring to obtain the Sultan's promise to make no further territorial cessions without first consulting our respective Governments.

I also told Señor Diosdado that I had reason to believe that the Spanish Government would be informed by Sir Clare Ford that it might depend on the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts it might make to secure the independence and integrity of this country.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 91.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 10, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of an article in yesterday's issue of "Le Réveil du Maroc," the reputed organ of the French Legation in this place.

Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister, is disposed to believe that this article has been published solely for the purpose of bringing in the paragraph on the arrangement said to have been recently passed between the Sultan and M. Feraud as to the eventual extension of the Algerian frontier to the banks of the River Moulouya. Señor Diosdado thinks that M. Feraud has not only thus wished to give notice that the smallest increase of even the fortified lines of the Spanish possessions may bring about a French advance, but has also thereby attempted to draw off attention from the territorial encroachments in the direction of Figug.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of February 9, 1887.

L'ALARME.—Dans son dernier numéro, correspondant au 6 courant, notre confrère local "l'Al-moghreb Al aksa," sonne l'alarme. S'appuyant sur les rumeurs d'une rectification de frontières négociées entre le Ministre de France et le Sultan à la dernière Ambassade, d'une expédition projetée par le Sultan à Oudjda, rumeurs que notre confrère met en corrélation avec l'appel télégraphique à Berlin du Ministre d'Allemagne au Maroc, "l'Al-moghreb" proteste contre le démembrement du territoire Marocain, et demande à toutes les nations qui ont des intérêts au Maroc de s'opposer à la cession d'un pied de terrain à qui que ce soit.

Ces rumeurs plus ou moins autorisées ne justifient guère l'alarme de notre confrère. Partisans comme nous sommes de l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc nous ne voyons pas sans plaisir mettre fin à l'interminable question de la délimitation des frontières Algériennes. Rien cependant ne justifie la croyance de ce qu'une seule ou plusieurs interventions dans cette affaire à la dernière Ambassade de M. Feraud, quoique nous déplorions avec notre confrère le mystère dont sont entourés les actes officiels des Représentants étrangers et les réunions diplomatiques à Tanger, ainsi que nous l'avons fait voir dans notre dernier numéro.

Il y a toutefois une rumeur persistante qui eût été à l'effet que le Ministre de France aurait passé avec le Sultan une Convention aux termes de laquelle il a été arrêté que si le Maroc, à quelque époque future, venait à faire une cession territoriale à quelque Puissance que ce soit, la France aurait alors les frontières Algériennes.

poussées jusqu'au Moulouya. Si cela est, il y a tout lieu de croire la solution plus éloignée que jamais, et par conséquent, les inquiétudes sans fondement aucun.

D'autre part, on prétend que le Ministre de France aurait influé auprès du Sultan pour le maintien d'Abdelmaleek dans son poste de Gouverneur des régions d'Oudjda, avec les mêmes pouvoirs que ceux de Sid Torres à Tanger. Cette nouvelle, quoique manquant de confirmation, donnerait lieu à supposer que le Ministre de France aurait assumé une responsabilité incompatible avec la diplomatie, au cas où les troubles dans les régions d'Oudjda, calmes depuis le départ d'Abdelmaleek, viendraient à se reproduire au retour de sa présence. La France serait-elle alors en droit de se plaindre des agissements du fonctionnaire nommé par le Sultan sur la recommandation de son Ministre? Ce droit serait très contestable, car, bien que le Souverain du pays soit censé avoir la main libre, sa position ne lui permet pas toujours d'encourir la responsabilité de s'opposer à toute demande d'un Représentant de Puissance voisine, cette demande fût-elle même offieuse.

Devant de pareilles considérations, il nous est difficile de croire que M. Féraud manquera de tact au point de compromettre la situation pour favoriser l'imposition d'un fonctionnaire dont les agissements avaient créé des troubles dans les régions limitrophes, ce fonctionnaire fut-il même l'ami le plus dévoué de la France, qualité que nous sommes loin de reconnaître à Sid Abdelmaleek, étant donné sa position officielle ainsi que ses antécédents.

No. 92.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)*

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 11, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of the 2nd instant, announcing the sudden recall of Baron Testa to Berlin I have now the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival to-day of M. von S. Stern, who has been named German Chargé d'Affaires at Morocco, stating what is likely to prove, if not the permanent, the prolonged absence of Baron Testa.

M. von Saldern, who was recently in Bulgaria, and formerly my German colleague in Scutari tells me that his instructions direct him to endeavour to be in accord as much as possible with British policy in this country.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 93.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)*

(No. 26.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Féraud left this morning for Paris.

My colleague told me, when taking leave of me, that it is customary for the French Minister to proceed to France after every visit to the Moorish Court, in order to give verbal explanation thereon to the Secretary of State. M. Féraud added that he was about to fulfil a mere formality, and that he would probably be back in Tangier twenty days hence.

The Sherceef of Wazan and his eldest son also left this yesterday. Though M. Féraud explained this departure as being necessitated by the Sherceef's health, which requires recourse being had to some mineral baths in Algeria persons as much as the Sherceef's confidence as the French Minister assert that he will continue his journey from Algiers to Paris, where he hopes to obtain a clear definition of his semi-independent position, and the support of his claims to protect all his religious adherents in Morocco.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 94.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)*

(No. 51. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, February 17, 1887.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 36, Confidential, of the 8th instant, I took immediate steps for removing the misapprehension which appears to have arisen with regard to Sir J. Drummond Hay's views as to the best means of preserving the independence of Morocco, with special reference to a despatch of Count Robilant, addressed to M. Scovasso, relating a conversation he had with Sir J. Drummond Hay in my presence.

I could not see Count Robilant, who was called away to the Palace on questions connected with the Ministerial crisis; but I saw M. Malvano, who is charged with the duty of drawing up the political despatches, and I read to him Mr. Kirby Green's No. 6, Confidential, of the 21st January last, in which he takes exception to the statement Sir J. Drummond Hay is reported to have made, to the effect "that the maintenance of the Moorish *status quo* would be impossible the moment an attempt was made to introduce reforms in the Sherceefian Government," &c. At this point M. Malvano stopped me, saying it was evident M. Scovasso had been in error in translating Count Robilant's words, which bore a totally different signification.

He then sent me the volume containing the copies of Count Robilant's despatches, and read to me the passage referred to by Mr. Kirby Green, from which, as he said, it was evident that Count Robilant never intended to put into Sir J. Drummond Hay's mouth an attack upon the work of civilization in Morocco, but to expose those false endeavours which serve as a pretext for designs of a totally different character.

On my requesting to be furnished with an extract from that despatch, with the paragraph in question, M. Malvano said he would ask Count Robilant's leave to do so, and he has now sent me the extract in question, translation of which is herewith inclosed.

A despatch, pointing out the error into which M. Scovasso has fallen, will be addressed to him; and as Sir J. Drummond Hay has explained privately to M. Scovasso what he said to Count Robilant, all misapprehension on the subject will now be removed.

In your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch I am further directed to show the instruction it contains to Sir J. Drummond Hay, as well as Mr. Kirby Green's despatch. This I have done, and I have also thought it right to communicate to him my despatch No. 1, Africa, Confidential, of the 11th January last, describing his conversation with Count Robilant, which he considered to be a correct account of that interview.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY

Inclosure in No. 91.

Count Robilant to M. Scovasso.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

SIR J. D. HAY concluded his statement by informing me that during the forty years of his residence in Morocco he had convinced himself that the only means of preventing this dangerous and persistent action of France lay in not giving shocks to the Government of Morocco under the pretext of wishing to civilize it. Because it must be borne in mind that, although said Government is really execrable, for that very reason an injudicious push would involve its ruin to the exclusive advantage of France, who would profit by the opportunity to trumpet abroad the humane necessity of substituting for it a state of things more in harmony with the requirements of modern civilization—fine words, these, which the French always know how to employ to mask their encroachments.

*Sir R. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)*

(No. 60. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Berlin, February 19, 1887.*

I SAID to Count Bismarck to-day that I had no instructions to speak to him on the subject, but that I was anxious to know whether he took any interest in Morocco, and the recent action of the French Minister there.

He replied that Count Benomar, the Spanish Envoy at this Court, had spoken to him at length about it, and he, Count Bismarck, had disclaimed having interest in the Mediterranean. He had, however, recommended that Spain should endeavour to come to an understanding with England and Italy with regard to the question. This seemed to him the natural course to pursue, as they were the Powers chiefly interested.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET

No. 96.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.\**

(No. 17. Very Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's telegram No. 10 of February 19, 1887: *ante*, No. 83.]

No. 97.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 18.)

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 46 of February 11, 1887: *ante*, No. 62.]

No. 98.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 22.)

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 2 of February 4, 1887: *ante*, No. 49.]

No. 99.

*Sir J. Pauncefoot to Mr. Macgregor*

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 2 of February 4, 1887: *ante*, No. 49.]

No. 100.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)*

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, February 18, 1887.*

THE affairs of Morocco having formed the subject of discussion in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, I have the honour to inclose herein an extract in English of the observations which were made on the occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

\* Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 21), Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 56), and Viscount Lyons (No. 137).

*Extract from the "Gaceta de Madrid."*

AT the sitting held in the Congress of Deputies on Thursday, February 10, 1887.

Count de Toreno inquired of the Secretary of State what truth there was in the reports as to concessions made to France in Morocco.

Señor Moré replied that many reports on the subject were in circulation, but that as far as he knew, and he testified to the zeal and activity of the Spanish Representative in Tangier, there was nothing yet which could be said to be positively settled or which would justify the Spanish Government in making any protest. The question of Morocco is one which has nothing to do with party politics in Spain, and the present Spanish Government propose to follow the line of policy which has already been traced by previous Administrations, that is to say, that any rectification of the frontiers of Algeria or any occupation of Morocco territory cannot be accomplished without the participation ("intervention") of Spain, and with respect to which Spain has not only the right to express her opinion, but also to learn that of the other Powers respecting it, and to exercise in matter the rights which have been accorded to it by the French Government, which Government has by stipulations, which do not date from to-day, and which have never been denounced, and the validity of which cannot be doubted, entered into an engagement to proceed in Morocco hand in hand with Spain.

It is obvious that such being the case, the Spanish Government requires to take no other action, nor does she desire to pursue any other course than that of assuring herself directly and inquiring of the French Government as to what foundation may exist for the reports in question, and she has a perfect right to do so in view of the engagement above referred to, and availing myself of that right, I spoke a few days ago on the subject to the present French Ambassador, as indeed I did on the previous occasion to the former French Ambassador in Madrid.

I am therefore in a position to assure the Chamber that nothing which could act prejudicially to Spanish interests will occur, and that the Government is ready to employ all the means in its power to carry out the old traditional policy of Spain in Morocco, which consists in regarding the Morocco question, or rather the integrity and independence of that Empire, as one entirely and eminently national in its character.

Count de Toreno thanks Señor Moré for his explanation, and observes that, although the reported concessions to France may not as yet have assumed a concrete form, there must be something in them, and he is glad to hear that the Spanish Government are on the *qui vive* with respect to this important question.

Señor Moré replied that, as regarded the rectification of the Algerian frontier, he could not enter into details; but he could say so much, that it is not a question at present of the frontier on the banks of the River Muluya. As far as he was in a position to judge, the question referred to territory in the vicinity of an oasis, known by the name of Jigheery, a locality concerning which, as many persons know who are now listening to me, there was a question respecting which the rights of Spain were very clearly pronounced by former Secretaries of State in terms which I entirely approve of and adopt.

I quite approve, too, of the Members of this House addressing to me any questions relative to Morocco, for the Government is desirous of keeping itself in touch with the Chamber as regards a question which primes all others, inasmuch as it is a purely national one.

Count de Toreno again thanks the Minister of State, and assures him that, in the question of Morocco, he will always find the Deputies of the Chamber, of whatever party, ready to give unconditionally their best support to him.

At the sitting of the Congress of Deputies held on Tuesday, the 15th February, 1887, another statement relative to the affairs of Morocco was made by—

Señor Moré, who said he had received the most complete assurances from the French Government that the reports respecting an extension of the Algerian frontier in Morocco had no foundation whatever, and that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had declared to the Spanish Ambassador in Paris that France had not entertained, nor did entertain, any intentions of obtaining augmentation of territory on the coasts of Morocco. Señor Moré availed himself of this opportunity of correcting a



report which had appeared in the newspapers, and which materially affected Spanish trade. It had been said that the coasting trade would be allowed in the Empire of Morocco, but from information which he had received from the Spanish Minister in Tangier, it appeared that it was nothing of the sort, and that if it had been true the Government would have heard of it. As I am now in possession of some information on the subject, I am enabled to state that what has happened is this: that the Sultan of Morocco has proposed that, in the event of there being a scarcity of corn in any one port of Morocco, and a superabundance of that article in another port, as soon as the Sultan is made aware of the fact he will allow, at the period following the harvest, and when the threshing of the corn has taken place, the exportation of corn from one port to another during a period of three months, without, however, such a permission being used as a precedent, but only as an offer the accomplishment of which will depend upon the Sultan's judgment, having regard to the necessities of the Empire.

Count de Tormo thanked the Minister for the tranquillizing assurances he had uttered, and expressed the hope that any coasting trade which might be allowed would be enjoyed equally by all the flags of different nations.

## No. 101.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 4.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, February 23, 1887, 1 p.m.*

YOUR telegram of 17th February.

I approve your language to Italian Minister.

Her Majesty's Government think that Representatives of England, Spain, and Italy at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be able to suggest best form of note.

Instructions in this sense were to be sent on 20th to Italian Minister at Tangier.

Her Majesty's Government hope that this course will be agreeable to Spanish Government. If so, Mr. Kirby Green will be instructed to concert with Ministers of Spain and Italy for that purpose.

## No. 102.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 24. Confidential. Ext. 1.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 22, 1887*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches Nos. 20, Confidential, and 21 Confidential, of the 13th and 16th instant respectively, and your telegram of the 17th instant in regard to Morocco.

I have now to state to you that Her Majesty's Government concur in your view that it is desirable to await the result of the proposed joint action of the British, Italian and Spanish Representatives at Tangier before taking any further step, such as a formal engagement between any of the Powers to maintain the integrity of Morocco, and they consider that the Representatives of the three Powers at Tangier would probably, from local knowledge and experience, be in the most favourable position for suggesting the best form of note to be addressed to the Moorish Government.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome reported that instructions in that sense were to be sent on the 20th instant to the Italian Minister at Tangier, and Her Majesty's Government trust that this course will be agreeable to the Spanish Government. Should it be so, Mr. Kirby Green will be instructed to concert with his colleagues of Spain and Italy for that purpose.

I have at the same time to convey to you my approval of the language which you used to your Italian colleague, as reported in your telegram of the 17th instant.

The substance of the foregoing was this day communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

## No. 103.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 23, 7.15 p.m.)*

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, February 23, 1887, 4.30 p.m.*

YOUR telegram No. 4 of 20th instant.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has been laid up with cold, but he has just written to me to say on Monday last he sent instructions by telegraph to Spanish Minister at Tangier to act as your Lordship proposes, and in accordance with instructions sent to his colleagues.

## No. 103\*.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 144.)

*Foreign Office, February 23, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 26 of February 11; ditto, Nos. 16, 18, and 21, Confidential, of February 2, 7, and 8, and Sir Clare Ford's No. 17 of February 11, 1887: ante, Nos. 48, 63, 64, 66, and 64.]

## No. 104.

*The Anglo-Jewish Association to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 24.)*

My Lord,

*100, Sutherland Gardens, London, February 22, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's letter of the 19th instant, addressed to the Presidents of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Board of Deputies regarding the desirability that no further demands for compensation should be made on behalf of the Jews of Demnat in Morocco, I am directed to express to your Lordship the most grateful acknowledgments of the above-named gentlemen for the benevolent part you have taken in the matter brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. ADWY, Secretary.

## No. 104\*

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green, No. 6, Telegraphic, February 24, 1887.*

[For Extender, see No. 105.]

## No. 105.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 31. Ext.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 24, 1887.*

I REPEATED to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, in which Sir Clare Ford reports that he has been informed that the Spanish Minister at Tangier has been instructed to act with the Italian Minister and with yourself in regard to the maintenance of the integrity of the Moorish Empire.

I have therefore to request you to prepare, in concert with your colleagues of Italy and Spain, an identic note which should be previously submitted to your respective Governments before its presentation to the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 106.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 23. Most Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 24, 1887*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 15, Confidential, of February 1, ditto, No. 16, Confidential, February 2, ditto, No. 17, Confidential, February 4; ditto, No. 18, Confidential, February 7, ditto, Nos. 20 and 21, Confidential, February 8; ditto, No. 22, February 11; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 46, Confidential, of February 11; and Viscount Lyons' No. 33, Confidential, of February 14, 1887: ante, Nos. 47, 48, 61, 62, 64, 66, 66, 67, and 98.]

No. 107.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 26. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr Kirby Green's Nos. 24 and 25 of February 10 and 11, and Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 91, 92, and 93.]

No. 108.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 19. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.*

Sir,  
I HAVE received your despatch No. 23, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting your having informed your Italian and Spanish colleagues that you had received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to co-operating with them in their efforts to restrain the Sultan of Morocco from making any further territorial cessions without first consulting Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings in the matter

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 109.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 20. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 17 of February 11, *ditto*, No. 20, Confidential, February 13, Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19, and Viscount Lyons' No. 83 of February 14, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 63, 67, 69, and 93.]

No. 110.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 59. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.*

Sir,  
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 51, Confidential, of the 17th instant, and I have to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the removal of the misapprehension which had occurred in connection with the statement attributed to Sir J. Drummond Hay as to the means best calculated to safeguard the independence of the Empire of Morocco.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 111.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 66. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 14, Confidential, of February 8, *ditto*, No. 17, February 11, *ditto*, No. 20, Confidential, February 13; Sir E. Malet's No. 60 of February 19; Viscount Lyons' No. 83 of February 14; Mr. Kirby Green's No. 16, Confidential, of February 2, *ante*, Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Confidential, February 5, *ditto*, Nos. 20 and 21, Confidential, February 8; *ditto*, No. 24, February 10; and *ditto*, Nos. 25 and 26, February 11, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 18, 51, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 91, 92, 93, and 95.]

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No. 106 A.

*Mr. Pace to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)*

(Translation.)

Most Noble Lord,

*Sfax, February 17, 1887.*

SOON after I had the pleasure of receiving your esteemed letter, dated the 5th September, 1885, the Consul-General of Algiers came here, and I gave the letter to him through his agent at this town, so as to obtain justice. He answered that when he arrived at Tunis he would have to bring the matter to a conclusion; but after waiting about six months, there arrived a letter to this agent which was far from consoling, inasmuch as it stated I could not have further justice because I had asked for money. Of this I know nothing, except that in the year 1881, after the taking of Sfax, I went to Tunis, and a lawyer drew up a Petition with a request for 2,000 fr damages, as at that time it could not be proved who it was who had killed my son, but when later on I discovered sufficient proofs by means of the Court of Inquiry ordered by the French Governor of Tunis I always refused to compromise with money, and only demanded satisfaction from the son of (? Mizghani), who had been proved to have the greatest share in the murder of my son, as appears from the testimony of Captain Luigi Aveia, Paolo Camillari, Raffaele Villa, and Pietro Paccarini, all British subjects, as well as that of Ali Amara, Hamed-ben-Mensur, Hammuda Buzada, a notary Hamed-el-Edigi, Sati-el-Garbi, subjects of his Highness the Bey. Consequently, I think that with all these proofs I ought not to remain without satisfaction, all the more as I have ruined myself by three years of going about, including five journeys to and from Tunis, which have reduced me to a most deplorable state of poverty.

Wherefore I entreat your Lordship to take into consideration my advanced age of 65 years, and the fact of my having spent all my resources, and to cause ordinary satisfaction according to the laws to be given to me.

In the hope of receiving a favourable answer in this matter, I have, &c.

(Signed) GIUSEPPE PACE.

No. 106 B.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)*

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

*Tunis, February 21, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter from Mr E. A. Maund, an Englishman recently established as a land-owner in Bizerta, relative to the proposed use of the lake of that name for a torpedo-boat station, and to the measures which the French contemplate taking to adapt it for that purpose.

The information, which is well illustrated by the annexed Map, is derived from an excellent source, and though it be not confirmed by the British Consular Agent at Bizerta, to whom it was not likely to be accessible, yet it agrees with rumours which have latterly been current on the spot.

The dredger which was employed last summer in clearing the entrance to the old port, and in increasing the depth of the channel leading to the bridge referred to in the letter, is still at Bizerta, but a larger one is expected in order to expedite the work.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106 B.

*Mr. E. A. Maund to Consul Sandwith.*

Dear Mr. Sandwith,

*Tunis, February 17, 1887.*

I AM informed to-day that the French are about to utilize Bizerta as a torpedo-station.

Works are already in hand for cutting through the centre arch of the bridge, connecting Bizerta with the Tunis Road, and substituting a drawbridge in its place. This is to enable torpedo-boats to enter the Lake of Bizerta.

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The torpedo-boats recently at Bizerta were evidently there to test the feasibility of this scheme, and have now left.

I have drawn a Map, which I annex, showing the position of the drawbridge (A).

I think this of sufficient importance to ask that my sketch may be forwarded to General Brackenbury, who may wish it to be noted on my former Map.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) E. A. MAUND.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 106 B.

*Sketch of Bizerta, showing the Entrance through Bridge (A) into the Lake.*

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## No. 112.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 152. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 26, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 24 and 25 of February 10 and 11; and Sir E. Malet's No. 60, Confidential, of February 19, 1887. *ante*, Nos. 91, 92, and 95.]

## No. 113.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 91.)

Foreign Office, February 26, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 24 and 25 of February 10 and 11, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 91 and 92.]

## No. 114.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)*

(No. 27. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 23, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my Italian and Spanish colleagues informed me the day before yesterday that they had received telegraphic instructions from their Governments to draw up, together with me, the draft of the collective note which it was proposed we should address to the Moorish Government, for the purpose of obtaining an engagement from the Sultan that for the future no territorial concessions would be made except after consultation with our respective Governments.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 5 of yesterday's date permits me to submit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, the draft of the collective note which, in expectation of your Lordship's authorization, I had consented to prepare, in concert with Señor Diodado and Signor Scovasso.

My colleagues and I have thought it best not to load the note with explanations as to its object and advantages, for they ought to be self-evident to the Sultan and his Ministers.

If unexpected hesitation should arise in the acceptance of our advice, I can press it verbally upon the Sultan's serious attention during my approaching visit to the Moorish Court.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## Inclosure in No. 114.

*Draft of Collective Note to be addressed by the British, Italian, and Spanish Ministers to Cid Bmfadi Gharneet.*

(Après compliments.)

LES Soussignés, Représentants de l'Espagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de l'Italie, viennent de recevoir de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'ordre de porter à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le maintien de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité territoriale de l'Empire Marocain est l'objet de leur vive sollicitude.

Les dits Gouvernements sont convaincus que le Sultan ne saurait méconnaître l'avantage que Sa Majesté aurait à s'assurer leur appui pour arriver à ce but. Par conséquent, les Soussignés, agissant d'après les instructions qu'ils ont reçues, ont l'honneur de demander, par l'entremise de votre Excellence, que Sa Majesté s'engage formellement, vis-à-vis de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, à ne consentir dorénavant à aucune cession de territoire, ni à aucun arrangement territorial quelconque, sans s'être préalablement concerté avec les trois Gouvernements amis.

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Les Soussignés prient votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur transmettre, dans le plus bref délai possible, la réponse de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, afin qu'ils puissent en référer à leurs Gouvernements.

No. 115.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 1, 4.50 P.M.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887, 2.15 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me last night that he had received, and approved by Cabinet, the draft of the collective note prepared at Tangier.

No. 116.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 1, 5 P.M.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, March 1, 1887, 3.10 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of 23rd ultimo, Spanish Minister has already received authorization to sign collective note. Request your Lordship's authority to do so too if draft is approved of.

No. 117.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received by telegraph, March 1.)

(No. 31. Ext. 4.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 1, 1887.

SEÑOR DIOSDADO, the Spanish Minister, having already received the authorization from Madrid to sign the collective note, of which I had the honour to submit the draft to your Lordship's consideration in my despatch No. 27 of the 27th ultimo, I venture to respectfully suggest that, if the proposed note meets with your Lordship's approval, I also should be telegraphically authorized to sign it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 118.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 1, 1887.

I TRANSMIT, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing an abstract, in English, of a discussion in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies upon the affairs of Morocco,\* and I have to request you to furnish me with a Report upon the coasting trade, to which reference is made therein.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 119.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 1, 9 P.M.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 1, 1887, 8.40 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 12, Confidential, of the 8th ultimo.

I saw Minister for Foreign Affairs this afternoon, and explained misapprehension as to Sir J. Hay's language to Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Minister for

\* No. 100.

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Foreign Affairs was very glad to hear it, as he said he never could have supposed British policy in Morocco could be such as had been represented.

Spain will give most cordial support to Great Britain in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy of reform and administrative improvement.

No. 120.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 2.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 21, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 249 of the 18th December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. W. R. Lewis has been appointed to succeed Mr. Matthews, who has been removed, as United States' Consul at Tangier, which appointment it is remarked gives the State Department the opportunity to correct the abuses which, under Mr. Matthews, disgraced the American name.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 121.

*Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 2.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 20, 1887.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 7th instant, inclosing copy of one from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, I have the honour to state that there appears to be no serious intention on the part of the Sublime Porte to establish diplomatic relations between Turkey and Morocco, although, no doubt, the idea has been at times vaguely entertained.

I can ascertain nothing about Fahri Bey (Tzinganeh), whom Mr. Kirby Green mentions as a possible candidate for the post of Ottoman Minister to the Sultan of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 122.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received March 2.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 27, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a private note I received last evening from Señor Agüera, the Under-Secretary of State, together with translation of a document which formed the inclosure to that note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

*Señor Agüera to Sir Clare Ford*

Mon cher Ami,

Ministro de Estado, le 26 Février, 1887.

M MURET me charge de vous remettre la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche que nous venons de recevoir de Larache,\* quoique nous n'ajoutons pas grand foi à ses nouvelles.

Tout à vous,

(Signé) J. S. AGÜERA.

\* Larache, a port on the west of Morocco, to the south of Tangier

## Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

*Letter received from Larache.*

(Translation.)

A MOOR, who this very evening arrived from Morocco, has assured me that it is known there that the French have positively taken possession of Figuier and Ain Shair. Aguelaslabucas sent in all haste their Commissioners to the Sultan informing him of this irruption, and that the invaders intended fortifying certain points of the territory where the inhabitants were not friendly to them.

The Sultan informed the Commissioners that he would shortly call together his army and hasten its departure for Fez and Ushda, whence he thought of sending it to the occupied frontier. The time fixed in Morocco for the departure of the Sultan was about the middle of March, and rumours were at least relative to important movements of troops in the Province of Oran.

## No. 123.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 123. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 22, Confidential, of February 16; and ditto, No. 5, Telegraphic, of March 1, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 79 and 119.]

## No. 124.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 24. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 22, Confidential, of February 16, 1887: *ante*, No. 79.]

## No. 125.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†*

(No. 162. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 23 of February 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 90, 94, and 100.]

## No. 126.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 73. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 23 of February 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 90 and 100.]

## No. 127.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 31. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 23, Confidential, of February 10; and of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 90 and 94.]

\* Also to Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 53, Confidential), and Sir E. Malet (No. 29, Confidential).  
† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 106, Confidential).

## No. 124\*

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)*

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, February 24, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that whilst I was calling yesterday on my German colleague, M. von Saldern, he mentioned to me that he had heard from Berlin that the Spanish Representative there had depicted under very serious colours the recent French encroachments on Moorish territory. Count Bonomar had actually stated that these encroachments, if continued, might result in a rupture between France and Spain.

M. von Saldern added that, under these circumstances, the German Government had thought it prudent to instruct him to explain to those of his colleagues whose countries might have special interests in Morocco, that whilst the German Government sympathized with all efforts for maintaining a political equilibrium in these regions, it had ever to bear in mind that it should never unnecessarily touch the very natural susceptibilities of the French. Therefore, M. von Saldern was directed to observe, as long as friendly relations existed between France and Germany, the greatest reserve in his political conduct here.

I stated to M. von Saldern, in a friendly way, that I quite understood the motives of the German Government and that I should never have expected that it could have any other policy than to encourage the French Government to increase its responsibilities and military engagements in Northern Africa. In fact, I thought it would be rather advantageous for those who are interested in supporting the Sultan of Morocco that the French Government should realize with promptitude the benevolent attitude of Germany with regard to its aspirations in this direction.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 128.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 26. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 5, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 51, Confidential, of February 17, 1887: ante, No. 94.]

No. 129.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 27.)

Foreign Office, March 5, 1887.

[Transmits copy of letter from the Anglo-Jewish Association of February 22, 1887: ante, No. 104.]

No. 130.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.\**

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 7, 1887, 5.15 P.M.

YOL R No. 27.

HER Majesty's Government approve collective note provided "bons offices" are substituted for "appui" in second paragraph.

Ask Spanish and Italian Ministers to apply for concurrence of their Governments.

No. 131.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 28. Ext. 7.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 7, 1887.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 27 of the 23rd ultimo, submitting the draft of a collective note to the Moorish Government, urging the Sultan to engage to make no territorial cessions in future without previous consultation with the Governments of Great Britain and Spain.

I have to state to you that the terms of the note in question meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, provided that the words "bons offices" are substituted for "appui" in the second paragraph; and I have to request that you will ask your Spanish and Italian colleagues to apply for the concurrence of their respective Governments in the suggested alterations.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the words proposed to be substituted for "appui" will more accurately express the meaning which it is desirable to convey to the Moorish Government.

The substance of the foregoing has been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8, 10.30 P.M.)*

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, March 8, 1887, 5.15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 5.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has no objection to substitute words "bons offices" for "appui" in second paragraph of note.

Spanish Minister at Tangier will be so informed when he applies.



No. 133.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)*

(No. 32. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 1, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 11, Very Confidential, of the 5th ultimo, which reached me yesterday by Foreign Office messenger, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that at an interview I held this afternoon with Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, I assured his Excellency of the moral support of Her Majesty's Government in any efforts the Spanish Government may make to secure the independence and integrity of the Sultan's dominions.

Señor Moret expresses his gratification at hearing this assurance.

I also informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government considered that it would be advisable for the Spanish Government to consult with that of Italy in this matter, to which Señor Moret entirely agreed.

I should mention to your Lordship that I had already spoken to Señor Moret in this sense on the 5th ultimo, when I had received your Lordship's telegram of that date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 134.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)*

(No. 33. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 1, 1887.

ACTING on the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 12 of the 8th ultimo, marked Confidential, which reached me yesterday in a despatch bag by Mr. Greville, I called on the Minister of State this afternoon, and informed him of the misapprehension which had taken place as to certain expressions of Sir John Hay at an interview he held at Rome on the 10th January with Count Robilant, and which expressions conveyed the idea that, in his opinion, a policy to adopt in Morocco was to discountenance any attempts at reform and administrative improvement, whereas in reality Sir John Hay's opinions were in an exactly contrary direction, and his views were shared by Her Majesty's Government.

Señor Moret appeared much gratified at hearing this explanation, and he informed me that he had been considerably puzzled by a report which he had recently received from Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, who had evidently written to him in consequence of what he had heard from Signor Scovasso, his Italian colleague, who had no doubt communicated to him the contents of the despatch which he had received from Count Robilant, giving an account of the interview his Excellency had held with Sir John Hay.

Señor Moret said he could not believe what he had read, as it was so contrary to the spirit and traditions of British policy. England, he said, advocated reforms in Turkey, why not then in Morocco?

Finding Señor Moret in such an excellent disposition, I expressed the hope that the Spanish Representative at Tangier might receive instructions to co-operate with his British colleague in urging the Moorish Government to adopt a policy which would be the best adapted for securing the independence of the Moorish Empire; and his Excellency was good enough to assure me in warm terms that Her Majesty's Government could confidently rely upon such co-operation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 135.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9, 1.25 P.M.)*

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, March 9, 1887, 12.50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 35.

Italian Government have telegraphed to Italian Minister at Tangier to substitute the words "bons offices" for the word "appui" in the collective note to be addressed to Moorish Government.

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No. 136.

*Sir J. S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, March 9.)*

(No. 70. Ext. 25.)

My Lord,

Rome, March 9, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 35 of the 7th instant, I learn that the Italian Government have instructed their Representative at Tangier to replace the word "appui" by the expression "bons offices" in the collective note about to be presented to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 137.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)*

(No. 32. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of the reply received by me from Cid Emfadi Gharnet to the inquiry I had addressed as reported in No. 9 of the 25th January last, to his Excellency, on the subject of the rumoured territorial cessions by his Shereefian Majesty to France on the Algerian frontier.

Your Lordship will observe that, in accordance with the expectation expressed by me in my despatch No. 17 of the 4th ultimo, Cid Emfadi Gharnet attempts to leave me under the impression that no territorial cessions have been made by the Sultan, though his Excellency endeavours to deny the fact in a categorical manner.

My Spanish and Italian colleagues, to whom I have communicated the substance of the Moorish Minister's reply, agree with me in believing that not only has the Sultan divested himself of some districts which His Majesty considered to have belonged hitherto to Morocco, but that he has also allowed M. Feraud to obtain more influence over him than is quite desirable for the security of his Empire.

I therefore, at the solicitation of Señor Diosdado, requested that I might be authorized by your Lordship, by telegraph, to sign the collective note, should it meet with your Lordship's approval. The Spanish Minister is most anxious that no time should be lost in encouraging the Sultan from a course which can only lead to the establishment of a French Protectorate, and Señor Diosdado is convinced that this can be best effected by at once submitting to His Shereefian Majesty's consideration, with adequate accompanying explanations, the proposed collective note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 137

*Cid Emfadi Gharnet to Mr. Kirby Green*

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Morocco, February 6, 1887.

WE have received your letter, in which you inform us that, after the return of the French Minister from the Court, there were rumours at Tangier to the effect that the Sultan had ceded a considerable tract of country to France; you also say that, if such is the case, we, by not apprising the friendly Governments of the fact, have infringed the engagement we had entered into with them to keep them informed on matters of importance.

We have communicated your letter to our Lord and Master and His Majesty, after having taken what you say into consideration, has commanded me to answer you that your statement concerning the promise which the Shereefian Government had made to the friendly Powers is perfectly correct and that His Majesty continues to observe it towards Great Britain as well as towards the other friendly Governments. I have to thank you, in the name of the Sultan, for this and for your strict observance of the Treaties of your Government, which are based upon its friendship to this country. How.

ever, no such thing as what you mention has taken place. The truth is as follows:—The French claimed the district known as Genan Borzig, and adduced testimony to show that it belonged to the Eastern territory; and we inquired into the matter, endeavouring to obtain evidence from other quarters, but could not arrive at the truth, because people are either on the one side or the other; the one say it belonged to the French, and the others say it belonged to the Empire of Morocco. We therefore replied to the French Minister, that if it was proved that it belonged to French territory, the French should take possession of it, in consideration of the perfect friendship and alliance which exists at the present day between us and France, so much so that the claims they have upon the subjects of His Shereefian Majesty were presented in a friendly manner, and in an accommodating spirit, as befits friends. The cases where grievances exist between the subjects of the two nations, even where the Emperor's subjects are in the wrong, the French Government restrains its subjects from exacting justice for themselves until the Moorish Government has been informed, and dispenses justice between the parties. An instance of this was the attack and robbery perpetrated by the Moorish tribe of Doowi Menia on the Algerian tribe of Sherebna. The latter wished to pursue the Doowi Menia, and recover what had been stolen from them; but the French Government prevented them from doing so, and referred the matter to His Shereefian Majesty, who sent the Kaid Boo Azza Eshaherifi to inquire into the rights of the case. He is now still executing justice on them. Peace.

(Signed) EMFADL GHARNEET.

#### No. 138.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley.*

(No. 81. Confidential.) Foreign Office, March 11, 1887.  
[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 105 and 122.]

#### No. 139.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley*

(No. 82.) Foreign Office, March 11, 1887.  
[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 61 of February 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 120.]

#### No. 140.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. S. Lumley*

(No. 83.) Foreign Office, March 11, 1887.  
[Transmits copy of Sir W. White's No. 73 of February 26, 1887: *ante*, No. 121.]

#### No. 141.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 20. Confidential.) Foreign Office, March 11, 1887  
[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 7 (Telegraphic), of March 8; and Sir J. S. Lumley's No. 25 (Telegraphic), of March 9, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 132 and 135.]

#### No. 142.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12, 3 P.M.)*

(No. 6.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, March 12, 1887, 2:39 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant.  
Collective note in deared form signed and forwarded to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

#### No. 143.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 177.)

*Foreign Office, March 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 105 and 122.]

#### No. 144.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 178.)

*Foreign Office, March 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. White's No. 75 of February 26, 1887: *ante*, No. 121.]

#### No. 145.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 179.)

*Foreign Office, March 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 61 of February 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 120.]

#### No. 146.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)*

(No. 10.)  
My Lord,

*Tunis, March 3, 1887.*

BY a Decree of the President of the French Republic, seven new posts of "Contrôleurs Civils" have been created in the Regency of Tunis, bringing up the total number to thirteen.

It is two years since the first "Contrôleurs Civils" were appointed, their number being then six. They were established at Gol-tta, Suse, Sfax, El Kef, Gafsa, Nebeul, the French Vice-Consuls at those places being invested with the new functions. The post of Gafsa in the south of the Regency has now been suppressed, and the "Contrôleurs Civils" are located at the following places: Tunis, Goletta, Nebeul, Suse, Sfax, Djerba, Tozeur, Kairouan, Maktur, El Kef, Souk-el-Arba, Bija, Bizerta. Of the above places, Tozeur, Kairouan, Maktur, El Kef, Souk-el-Arba, and Bija are situated in the interior, chiefly in the north of the Regency, the rest are seaports. All these appointments are held by Frenchmen, who continue to perform the functions of Vice-Consuls, and are paid exclusively out of the Tunisian Exchequer.

The duties of the new functionaries are of a mixed nature, administrative, judicial, diplomatic. They are required to exercise a vigilant surveillance over the native Governors in their districts, particularly with a view to check peculation, and to see that the taxes, which the Governors are charged with collecting, reach their destination. They are in direct correspondence with the Resident-General, who, by their means, is kept in closer touch with the native administration. The registration of the births and deaths of French citizens devolves on them, and they are authorized to perform civil marriages for any Europeans who may present themselves for the

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purpose. In places where "Juges de Paix" do not exist the "Contrôleurs Civils" act in a judicial capacity.

A centralizing system is thus attained by the new institution, which is not without its advantages.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWICH.

No. 147.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 6, 1887.

IN confirmation of the belief expressed by me in my despatch No. 32, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, that notwithstanding the attempts of the Moorish Government to leave in doubt the question whether any territorial cessions have or have not been made by the Sultan on the Algerian frontier, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received renewed assurances from a person who is in daily contact with the Moorish Court, that such cessions were most certainly agreed to by the Sultan.

My informant adds that deputations from the ceded district of Genan Borzig and from Figuig have arrived at the Court to protest against the transfer of any of their territory to France, and have added that they will oppose to the utmost the advance of French troops, regardless of the arrangements which the Sultan may have come to with the French Minister. The Sultan and his counsellors are considerably perplexed in what manner to meet the determined attitude assumed by the inhabitants of the before named localities, and, in the meantime, the deputations are being detained, on various pleas, at the Court.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 148.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 36. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 6, 1887.

I LEARN from a confidential source, which is known to your Lordship, that a rumour is current among the Sultan's surroundings that, as soon as it had become known that the French had obtained territorial cessions in the direction of Figuig, His Shereefian Majesty received a demand from the German Government for the cession to it of Fum Aggirud, a small port in the Mediterranean almost touching the Algerian frontier, and not far from the Charfarine Islands, which are a Spanish possession.

This rumour is of so startling a nature that it must necessarily be received with considerable incredulity, especially in the face of Count Bismarck's disclaimer of all German interest in the Mediterranean, reported to your Lordship by Sir Edward Malet in his despatch No. 60, Confidential, of the 19th ultimo.

It is quite possible that my informant may have misunderstood the discussions at which he was present, and that the cession to Germany of Fum Aggirud may have been suggested to the Moorish mind as an easy way of checking, at one and the same time, French and Spanish encroachments in that direction. Yet I venture to observe to your Lordship that, although Baron Testa's recall is asserted at Berlin to have been caused through his neglect to correspond with the German Foreign Office, here, at Tangier, Baron Testa had established the reputation of being a very careful business man, and it had been further remarked that in recent times he was in very frequent communication with Halil Mohamed Torres, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. I may also point out to your Lordship that on former occasions, when the German Minister temporarily left Morocco, the small importance attached by Berlin to his post was marked by a non-German employé being left in charge of it. On the present occasion M. von Saldern was at once dispatched from Germany to conduct the business of the Tangier Legation.

If there should be the slightest foundation in fact for the report which has now

reached me from the city of Morocco I need hardly remark to your Lordship that it would be likely to cause great commotion both in France and Spain.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 149.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 9, 1887.

I OBSERVE in the French newspaper "Le Temps" of yesterday's date the inclosed Article respecting affairs in Morocco, and as your Lordship would no doubt like to see the article which is referred to therein, and which was published in the "Imparcial" of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and précis of it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

Inclosure 1 in No. 149.

Précis of Article in "El Imparcial" of March 5, 1887.

"EL IMPARCIAL" of the 5th instant transcribes a letter from Tangier dated the 25th February last, published in "La Andaluza," of Seville, and an article published also in that paper with reference to the affairs of Morocco, which are interesting.

The correspondent of "La Andaluza" states that M. Féraud, in his mission to Muley El Hassan, has not obtained the advantages with which the foreign press have credited him.

No frontiers have been rectified, and no Treaty of Commerce has been agreed to.

The French Minister has merely considered the demands brought forward by certain subjects of Morocco to be indemnified for the value of fruit trees which have been cut down in Djniel-Bou-Breg, were the Algerian military authorities intend to construct a "bong" or "fort."

The editor of "La Andaluza" states that the news which he had received by telegraph were confirmed, that through the good offices of M. Féraud, Malek-Ben-Hassane is retained at his post as Governor of Hedydu, though the Sultan was anxious to dismiss him in compliance with the request of the subjects under his jurisdiction, who hate him. Thus the Sultan has complied with M. Féraud's request in order to please the French nation.

It is also stated that the French troops have also occupied the Figuig oasis, and several other places towards the slopes of the Atlas, where the limits of the Empire of Morocco are not clearly defined. If this is so, it appears that the object of the French is to take possession of Faflet, and from thence to occupy the water-shed of the Draa towards the Atlantic.

When this takes place the Empire of Morocco will be surrounded by a series of French military posts, which will commence at Nemours, continue by Figuig and the water-shed of the Zulfana, along the Draa by the Province of Guezula and Cape Nun in the Atlantic, not far from Cape Cantado is reached.

It is also rumoured that the departure of the Chérif of Wazan, in consequence of differences of opinion with M. Féraud, who does not accept certain plans cherished by the Chérif in concert with Count Cavagnac, and in which the wife of the Chérif is said to have interfered.

No Kabile has ever demanded help against a French invasion. The Emperor is still at Marrash.

Extract from "Le Temps" of March 6, 1887.

LA presse de Madrid publie depuis quelque temps une série d'informations concernant le Maroc qui prêtent au Gouvernement Français le projet d'annexer une partie de cet Empire et qui ont vivement ému l'opinion publique en Espagne. Sur la foi de correspondances diverses qui rapportent indifféremment tous les racontars des Bazzars de Tanger et que reproduit "l'Andalousia" sans les vérifier, on a annoncé tour à tour dans les journaux de la Péninsule que la France allait rappeler M. Pénaud à la suite de l'insuccès de ses tentatives pour obtenir la signature d'un Traité de Commerce, que le Maroc était mis en demeure de céder la rive droite du Moulaya, que l'on s'apprêtait en Algérie à s'emparer de l'ouïs de Figuig, puis de celle de Tailet, des bords du fleuve Draah, pour rejoindre l'Océan et isoler ainsi par le sud cette partie de l'Afrique.

Ces nouvelles, malgré leur caractère évidemment fantaisiste, n'ont pas laissé d'inquiéter à Madrid les cercles politiques et militaires, qui suivent avec une attention jalouse tout ce qui se passe au Maroc. M. Moret a été amené à s'en expliquer devant les Cortès; il a déclaré avoir reçu de M. Albareda l'assurance qu'il n'est pas question d'une rectification des frontières entre le Maroc et l'Algérie, que la France s'est toujours efforcée de tenir compte de la situation par légèreté que l'Espagne croit pouvoir réclamer dans le sud-ouest de l'Afrique, et qu'il n'y a aucun motif de croire qu'on nourrisse à Paris des projets de nature à blesser ces susceptibilités. M. Moret a ajouté qu'il veillait sur les agissements des autres Puissances au Maroc, et le Ministre de la Guerre, prenant ensuite la parole, a annoncé qu'il avait envoyé des canons aux stations Espagnoles sur la côte d'Afrique et ordonné quelques réparations aux fortifications de Ceuta, Melilla, et des Iles Chalfarinas.

Ces déclarations sont faites sans doute plutôt pour tranquilliser l'opinion publique que pour indiquer la reprise par l'Espagne d'une politique plus active au Maroc. On sait fort bien à Madrid que rien de sérieux ne menace le *status quo* dans cette partie du bassin de la Méditerranée. Tout en suivant avec attention le développement du commerce à l'égard du Maroc l'activité que déploie en faveur de ses nationaux le Ministre d'Italie, la pose d'un câble Anglais entre Gibraltar et Tangier, le Gouvernement de Donna Christine a conscience que les diverses Puissances Européennes ont actuellement d'autres soucis que la question Marocaine. S'il est légitime que l'Espagne à la suite de son expédition heureuse le 1859-60, de ses possessions sur la côte de la Conférence de 1880, de ses traditions et de son commerce croie avoir une mission historique à accomplir sur la rive Africaine au delà de Gibraltar, elle aurait tort de redoubter l'hostilité de la France pour ces plans lointains et de considérer notamment les précautions que nous sommes obligés de prendre contre les Bedouins aux environs de Figuig comme une menace pour l'intégrité du territoire Marocain.

No. 150.

Sir R. Playfair to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Tunis a voluminous correspondence regarding the affairs of General Hamda Ben Ayad, part of which I have the honour to inclose.

In my despatch No. 6, dated the 11th January, I reported the steps Mr Sandwith and I had taken to bring the matter to the notice of the Resident-General, and the intelligent advocacy of Maître Acard, of Marseilles, the Resident General promised to give the matter his earnest consideration, and this, no doubt, he has done, but, the details being of a difficult and complicated nature, he has relied greatly on the advice of M. Dupienne, the Director of Finance who personally is inimical to the General, and who thinks, perhaps, more of his Budget than of the complainant's interests.

What we endeavoured to impress upon M. Massicault was that the time had come to put a stop, once for all, to the complaints, recriminations, and law-suits which had been going on for years between the General and the Government of Tunisia. This it was proposed to effect by means of a "transaction," which should satisfy all conflicting interests and enable the General to emerge from the difficulties which surrounded him on every side. I threatened him with bankruptcy.

The starting-point, of course, was the arbitration award which condemned him to pay the sum of 1,181,426 piastres (29,533l.). Thus the Tunisian Government maintains as

Algiers, March 9, 1887.

final; we have recognized it as such, and we cannot now dispute its justice. The General, however, has appealed to the Court at Algiers against its execution, and his suit is still pending.

On the other hand, the General complains, apparently with reason, of a series of unjust and arbitrary acts, unconnected with the arbitration, and it was to obtain justice for these that Her Majesty's Government lately made a representation in his favour to the Government of France.

Schemes of "transactions" were proposed on both sides, but the only arrangement which the Government of Tunisia would consent to accept was a payment of 800,000 piastres (7,500l.), by General Ben Ayad, by easy instalments, in full satisfaction of all demands on both sides. Deducting this sum from the arbitration award, there remains 888,426 piastres (22,033l.), representing compensation to the General for the arbitrary acts in question.

It is quite impossible for me to estimate, even approximately, the pecuniary value of these; the terms may be hard, scarcely, indeed, better than those proposed and rejected two years ago, but I cannot take upon myself to pronounce them unjust or unreasonable. The General, however, refuses to accept them; all negotiations have been broken off, and matters must now be allowed to take their inevitable course. The General will continue his appeal, and he will endeavour to obtain redress, as best he may, before the French Tribunal, for such of his grievances as these may declare themselves competent to entertain; M. Massicault positively refuses to render him any assistance in consequence of his having disputed the award, and declined to accept the "transaction" proposed by M. Dupienne.

One thing seems to me clear: we have strained our diplomatic intervention in his behalf to its utmost limits, without any appreciable results, and we can hardly make any further representation on the subject to the Government of France.

The documents which I inclose are not unreasonably long, and they detail all the steps of the recent negotiation with clearness and precision.

Inclosure 1 is a letter from Maître Acard reporting the steps taken by him to obtain justice for his client.

Inclosure 2 is a letter from Maître Acard to M. Massicault, in which the former details all the arbitrary acts of which General Ben Ayad complains.

Inclosure 3 is the "transaction" proposed by M. Dupienne, Director of Finance, two years ago, to which he still adheres, but which the Resident-General now proposes to modify by deducting 100,000 piastres from the sum to be paid by the General.

Inclosure 4 is the first scheme of "transaction" proposed by Maître Acard.

Inclosure 5 is the second scheme proposed by him.

I cannot but feel that Ben Ayad has received scant justice inasmuch as his claims have been denied examination, and that our intervention in his behalf has been of little service to him. Could they all be decided by a French Tribunal, there would not be a word to say, but, in the matter of real property, this must declare itself incompetent.

He has, however, brought the whole of this trouble on himself by refusing to recognize the arbitration award, which both he and Her Majesty's Government pledged themselves beforehand to consider final. But for this the acts complained of either would not have happened or would have been susceptible of arrangement.

I have, &c

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

Maître Acard to General Ben Ayad

Monsieur,

Marseille, le 12 Février, 1887.

JE viens, pour satisfaire à votre désir, vous retracer tous les incidents des négociations que j'ai poursuivies avec la Résidence Française à Tunis, et vous envoyer la copie de toutes les pièces qui ont été rédigées à cette occasion.

C'est le Dimanche, 23 Janvier, 1887, que j'eus l'honneur de me présenter, pour la première fois, à M. le Ministre-Résident, et je lui parlai de toutes les difficultés pendantes entre vous et le Gouvernement Tunisien. Je commençai par faire allusion aux réclamations adressées par vous au Foreign Office et qui allèrent être présentées par Sir R. L. Playfair, Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Alger. Puis je l'entretenais assez longuement de votre affaire d'arbitrage pendante devant la Cour d'Alger, et enfin j'indiquai que vous aviez à formuler encore d'autres réclamations.



relatives à des droits immobiliers qui n'avaient pas encore été soulevées. Il serait désirable, dis-je à M. le Ministre-Résident, de clore l'ère des procès et de terminer les difficultés de toute nature par une transaction générale.

M. le Ministre me fit connaître qu'il attendait le lendemain la visite de Sir R. L. Playfair, et m'autorisa à me présenter avec lui puisque j'étais chargé de discuter vos intérêts.

Le Lundi, 24 Janvier, après une courte conversation relative aux réclamations que Sir R. L. Playfair était venu présenter, j'ai entendu que je remettrais à M. le Ministre une note indiquant toutes les difficultés pendantes et toutes celles à naître.

Le jour même je rédigeai cette note sous forme de lettre, et je la remis à la Résidence le lendemain matin.

Le Samedi, 29 Janvier, n'ayant reçu aucune réponse, et ne voulant rester à Tunis que si cela paraissait nécessaire pour continuer des pourparlers de transaction, j'allai, pour M. le Ministre, le soir de me fixer sur les intentions du Gouvernement à votre égard, et j'obtins une audience pour le soir.

Le premier mot de M. Massicault lorsque je fus introduit fut celui-ci : "Eh bien ! M. Ayad, il n'est pas possible de nous entendre." "Je le regrette," répondis-je, "M. le Ministre ; il n'y a rien de resté qu'à vous présenter mes devoirs, et à m'accuser d'avoir travaillé sans utilité vos précieux moments."

M. le Ministre voulut bien cependant m'inviter à rester pour m'expliquer sa pensée.

"Pour les réclamations présentées par M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique," me dit-il, "le Gouvernement Tunisien croyait ne vous devoir aucune satisfaction." Sur la question d'arbitrage, ma note du 24 Janvier émettait des prétentions exorbitantes. Enfin j'avais soulevé quatre difficultés de nature immobilière, sur lesquelles M. le Ministre n'avait pu suffisamment se renseigner.

Je disent successivement les trois ordres d'idées. Relativement à l'arbitrage je dis à M. le Ministre que je n'avais nullement l'intention de rouvrir le débat, que je m'abstenais de toute critique contre les Jugements portés par les Arbitres, quelle que fut au fond mon opinion à cet égard, et que je demandais seulement au Gouvernement Tunisien de tenir compte au Général Ben Ayad de ce qu'en 1870 pour une créance élevée de 1,713,015 piastres, il n'avait touché qu'un dividende de 835,000 piastres. Il n'était donc pas juste de le contraindre à payer intégralement des dettes remontant à cette époque, et qui auraient dû se trouver éteintes par compensation avant l'allocation du dividende.

M. le Ministre voulut bien me dire qu'il était touché par mon raisonnement, et que le fait méritait d'être pris en considération. Je le priai d'examiner les quatre principales difficultés immobilières, et je lui lis que si l'Etat tunisien se refusait à fournir un moyen de transaction, je pourrais par la suite être obligé de revenir à mes affaires de Marseille, et de ne plus me consacrer à votre service.

M. le Ministre me promit de m'aviser avant le Lundi matin si ma présence ne pouvait plus être utile, puis le Mardi, 3 Février, il m'invita à me présenter à la Résidence. Ce jour-là les dispositions de M. Massicault me parurent des moins bienveillantes. Il s'était renseigné, d'après ce qu'il m'indiqua, auprès de M. Depienne, Directeur des Finances, et il avait pu se convaincre que l'observation faite par moi sur le dividende payé en 1870 n'avait pas la portée que je m'imaginais. Il ajouta que le Gouvernement avait une lettre de M. de Blignyères, l'un des Arbitres, disant que s'il n'avait pas été tenu compte du dividende de 1870, le Général Ben Ayad aurait été condamné d'une somme bien supérieure. "Je suis étonné," répondis-je, "qu'une pareille lettre existe. Je ne l'avais pas vue en plaidant en Première Instance et je ne comprends pas quels sont les motifs qui ont pu amener M. de Blignyères à l'écrire. La réduction de la Sentence Arbitrale démontre, du reste, l'inexactitude de cette lettre." J'ajoutai que M. Gueydar, Avocat du Gouvernement, avait lui-même été saisi de cet argument qu'il m'avait avoué au sortir des débats de Première Instance que ma plaidoirie rendait la tâche très difficile.

M. le Ministre, pour toute explication, me fit un compliment sur ma plaidoirie en ajoutant qu'au fond mes arguments n'avaient impressionné ni le Gouvernement ni son Conseil, et qu'il considérait le procès à Alger comme absolument imperdable.

"Quant à vos réclamations immobilières il y en a qui peuvent être fondées," me dit M. Massicault, "pour certaines même l'importance peu considérable le Directeur des Finances reconnaît que vous avez probablement raison ; mais ce sont des procès à faire. Lorsque ces Tribunaux seront saisis nous nous défendrons."

Je fis observer à M. Massicault qu'il était bien possible de discuter immédiatement

ment toutes les questions immobilières que soulevait mon Mémoire ; que vos prétentions étaient nettement formulées, vos titres indiqués ou produits, et je lui dis que je serais très désireux de connaître les objections formulées par le Gouvernement à leur encontre.

"Nous pourrions transiger sur toutes les questions après les avoir discutées ensemble. Si, au contraire," ajoutai-je, "le Gouvernement préfère remettre aux Tribunaux le soin de résoudre certaines d'entre elles, que la transaction qui interviendra les laisse de côté, et ne porte que sur les autres."

Et comme je signalais à M. le Ministre que parmi vos réclamations il y en avait une, celle relative aux propriétés vendues à Mohamed Bey et prises par le Gouvernement, qui avait une importance considérable, il me répéta que c'était une prétention qu'il ne pouvait pas être accueillie par les Tribunaux, et que le Gouvernement n'attendait pas suivre une discussion amiable sur le mérite de nos droits.

"Le Général Ben Ayad," dis-je alors, "abandonnera toutes ses réclamations en exceptant celle-là, et en stipulant aussi que la transaction n'impliquera pas l'abandon des droits qu'il peut avoir dans le procès considérable intenté au Gouvernement par les héritiers de Mahmoud Ben Ayad."

M. le Ministre m'indiqua que le Gouvernement n'accepterait jamais une transaction dans laquelle le Général Ben Ayad ne payerait pas une certaine somme. Il prétendit que ma note du 24 Janvier n'était pas assez précise, et me demanda de lui présenter un projet de transaction.

Il fut question vers la fin de notre entretien d'une somme de 200,000 piastres à faire payer au Général Ben Ayad en dix annuités, et M. le Ministre, lorsque je pris congé de lui, me dit : "Faites-moi une proposition formelle, et elle sera discutée en Conseil des Ministres."

Il rédigea immédiatement le premier projet de transaction qui fut remis le 2 Février à M. Massicault.

Le 3 Février, M. Benoît, Premier Secrétaire d'Ambassade, me prévenait qu'il était chargé de me faire une communication de la part de M. le Ministre, et lorsque je me fus rendu à la Résidence m'annonçant, à mon grand étonnement, que M. Massicault, après avoir conféré avec M. Depienne, Directeur des Finances, n'avait pas voulu soumettre mon projet au Conseil des Ministres à cause des restrictions qu'il contenait.

Je dis à M. Benoît que si le Général, par esprit de conciliation, acceptait de se soumettre sur la question de l'arbitrage, et de se reconnaître débiteur de la somme fixée par les Arbitres, il était juste que, de son côté, le Gouvernement acceptât la valeur des réclamations immobilières de Hamida Ben Ayad, pour en tenir compte, puisqu'on en stipulait l'abandon.

Les réclamations immobilières du Général pouvant représenter un intérêt de 2,000,000 piastres, il n'était pas équitable de l'y faire renoncer sans déduction et pour une somme de beaucoup inférieure.

"Il ne peut pas convenir," me répondit M. le Secrétaire l'Arbitrage, "d'entrer dans la discussion de ces questions-là. Nous transigeons pour mettre fin à toutes les difficultés sans même les examiner, et c'est dans ce but seulement que nous faisons une concession sur la somme à laquelle nous avons droit en vertu de la Sentence Arbitrale. Une proposition de transaction pour être exécutée doit offrir au minimum 300,000 piastres, payables par annuité, et contenir une renonciation à toute réclamation ultérieure contre le Gouvernement Tunisien."

"Je trouve, pour ma part," répondis-je à M. Benoît, "qu'il est singulier de demander à un adversaire d'abandonner des droits, sans avoir même formulé une objection quelconque à leur validité. Tout au moins, avant de soumettre au Général Hamida Ben Ayad les conditions qui lui sont imposées, je vous demande s'il n'est pas préférable."

"Je ne tiens pas à ma rédaction, et je suis prêt à la modifier comme il vous conviendra, pourvu que les termes que vous me proposerez soient clairs et précis. Et le Général," ajoutai-je, "s'engagera même, si vous le désirez, pour les droits que lui viennent de Mohamed, Abderrahman, et Mahmoud Ben Ayad à ne jamais faire de procès personnel, mais il veut conserver sa part d'intérêt dans les procès qu'il pourra intenter ses cohéritiers."

M. Benoît me dit que mon projet serait soumis à M. Depienne, Directeur des Finances, à qui M. le Ministre-Résident avait laissé le soin d'arrêter les termes de la transaction, et il m'invita à venir prendre la réponse de M. Depienne le soir même.

Quand je me présentai de nouveau, M. Benoît m'indiqua que M. Depienne n'acceptait pas mes réserves pour les procès Mahmoud Ben Ayad, et qu'il tenait

absolument à la rédaction qu'il avait préparée lui-même avec beaucoup de soin lorsqu'il avait été question de transaction avec votre fils, Sidi Taieb.

L'expression mon étonnement de ce que M. Depienne revint sur ce qui avait été arrêté entre nous la veille et le matin.

"Tel est," me dit M. le Secrétaire d'Ambassade, "la volonté de M. Depienne, qui ayant la responsabilité des finances de l'Etat Tunisien, a été, comme je vous l'ai fait connaître, laissé maître de choisir une rédaction qui donne toute garantie au Gouvernement. M. le Ministre-Résident ne veut pas substituer sa responsabilité à celle de M. le Directeur de Finances, mais il vous permet, pour le chiffre primitivement fixé de 400,000 piastres, de proposer au Conseil des Ministres une réduction à 300,000 piastres. M. Depienne défendra son chiffre et le Conseil décidera."

Je fis remarquer à M. Benoit combien était bizarre cette intervention du Conseil des Ministres, en dehors duquel M. le Ministre savait parfaitement prendre ses résolutions, et dans des circonstances bien autrement importantes.

Puis, passant à l'examen du projet de transaction de M. Depienne, je lui dis —

"Je ne peux pas en accepter les termes, car le Général Ben Ayad renoncerait à l'exercice de ses droits contre les tiers ayant eu des relations avec le Gouvernement. Or, il est au contraire entendu que le Général ne doit renoncer à ses actions jusqu'à l'époque où le Gouvernement doit être atteint par ses revendications."

"Les termes du projet paraissent être le contraire," répondit M. Benoit, "mais qu'importe, c'est une transaction faite entre le Général et le Gouvernement, et le tiers ne pourrait jamais s'en prévaloir."

"Parion, Monsieur," lui répondis-je, "je connais, en ma qualité d'avocat, la valeur des stipulations faites en faveur d'autrui, et je ne dois pas en conscience conseiller au Général Ben Ayad d'accepter une rédaction qui pourrait à un moment donné fermer la porte à de justes revendications contre des tiers."

"La réduction que j'ai proposée donne pleine et entière sécurité au Gouvernement Tunisien. Le Général s'interdit toute action immobilière contre lui, et quant à celles qu'il pourrait avoir à exercer contre des tiers, il s'engage, si le Gouvernement est mis en cause, à intervenir au procès et à garantir le Gouvernement en principal, intérêts, et frais de toutes les condamnations qui seraient prononcées contre lui."

"N'est-ce pas clair, net, et précis?"

M. Benoit me répondit que M. Depienne avait préparé sa rédaction avec beaucoup de soin et qu'il ne pouvait en accepter une nouvelle au pied levé! Il fallait ou accepter cette rédaction ou renoncer à transiger.

Cet ultimatum rendait toute négociation nouvelle inutile. Je dis à M. Benoit qu'en nous imposant la rédaction de son projet, M. Depienne rendait la transaction absolument impossible et je pris congé de lui.

Tel est, M. le Général, le récit fidèle de ce qui s'est passé entre la Residence Française et moi pendant mon dernier séjour à Tunis. Mes souvenirs sont absolument précis et l'impression que j'ai emportée de mes négociations est que l'influence de M. Depienne a réussi à inspirer à M. le Ministre-Résident les dispositions les moins conciliantes.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) A. AICARD

Inclusure 3 in No. 150.

Maitre Aicard to M. Maucault

M. le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, suivant le désir que vous m'avez exprimé, la note des réclamations du Général Ben Ayad auxquelles il a été fait allusion dans la conversation que nous avons eue ce matin. Je vous les expose successivement avec les quelques détails indispensables à l'intelligence des faits.

#### I. Affaire Hadj Ayad et Tahar Ben Hassen.

L'ancien Bey de Tunis, Mohammed El Saddock, avait donné à son Ministre, Mustapha Ben Ismail, certaines propriétés, et l'acte de donation fait en la forme ordinaire avait été revêtu des sceaux du Bey. Il y a cinq ou six ans, du vivant de Mohammed El Saddock, le Général Hamida Ben Ayad acheta de Mustapha Ben

Ismail une partie de ces propriétés, paya les droits de timbre et tous impôts dus au Gouvernement.

Cette vente donna lieu à un procès à raison des agissements de Mustapha Ben Ismail qui par avance avait aliéné un certain nombre d'années de fermage. Le Gouvernement Tunisien eut à cette époque pleine connaissance de l'affaire, puisque le Général s'était adressé au Bey pour faire annuler la vente; il ne jugea pas à propos d'intervenir.

Le Tribunal Consulaire de France saisi du litige et la Cour d'Aix devant laquelle il fut interjeté appel, consacrèrent la validité de la vente. Hamida Ben Ayad fut contraint de payer son prix à Mustapha Ben Ismail.

Après avoir été ainsi obligé de prendre possession de ces propriétés et d'en payer le prix, le Général Ben Ayad en a donné une partie en hypothèque à M. Valensi, banquier à Tunis, comme garantie d'un prêt de plus de 300,000 fr.

Quelque temps avant l'échéance et dans le but de se procurer les fonds nécessaires pour se libérer, il vendait une partie de ces propriétés à un nommé Hadj Ayad. A peine la vente à Hadj Ayad avait-elle été conclue, au moment où l'acheteur allait payer son prix et où Valensi, créancier hypothécaire, allait être désintéressé, Sidi Ali Bey, de Tunis, signifiât le 8 Novembre, 1884, un acte de protestation contre la vente, en se fondant sur ce que le caractère de "halhou" de ces biens les rendait inaliénables et par suite, sur la nullité de la donation faite par le Bey Mohammed El Saddock à Mustapha Ben Ismail.

L'échéance de la dette fixée au 1<sup>er</sup> Juillet, 1885, étant arrivée sans que le Général se fût libéré, M. Gabriel Valensi introduisit une action devant le Tribunal de Tunis pour faire vendre aux enchères les biens grevés d'hypothèques et arriver au recouvrement de sa créance. Le Général reconnut son obligation de payer la somme empruntée, mais demanda un sursis en se fondant sur ce qu'il avait vendu à Hadj Ayad certaines des propriétés données en gage moyennant un prix suffisant pour dédommager son créancier.

Malgré sa résistance et après l'obtention de quelques délais, le Général, par un Jugement du Tribunal Français de Tunis, en date du 23 Novembre, 1885, fut ordonné à payer à M. Valensi la somme réclamée avec intérêts et frais.

La procédure de l'exécution du Jugement donne aux créanciers en cas de saisie et de vente de leurs biens certaines garanties de délai et de publicité.

Le Sieur Valensi n'a pas observé ces formalités et il a trouvé dans le concours d'un fils du défunt, le Général Tahar Ben Hassen, le moyen de saisir toutes les récoltes des propriétés hypothéquées et en outre, non seulement celles d'autres propriétés du Général, mais encore les récoltes de propriétés appartenant à son fils Abd-el Gelil.

La procédure suivie a été des plus simples.

Par une Circulaire adressée à tous les Cads de sa province, le Général Tahar Ben Hassen, Gouverneur de l'Eloctan-el-Kelli, a signifié qu'une saisie-arrest ayant été opérée entre ses mains par M. Valensi en vertu du 1<sup>er</sup> Jugement du Tribunal de Paris, du 23 Novembre, 1885, les Cads auraient à saisir toutes les récoltes pendantes sous peine d'en payer la valeur; et Tahar Ben Hassen, qui connaît Sidi Hamida Ben Ayad puisqu'il l'a été Général de la Garde du Bey, indiquait dans sa Circulaire que Hamida était mort, son fils Abd-el-Gelil, en qualité d'héritier, se trouvait responsable des dettes de son père, et toutes les récoltes du fils furent frappées de la même saisie.

Le Général ne connut cette saisie qu'indirectement alors que les trois quarts des récoltes avaient déjà été vendues pour des prix dérisoires.

Pour éviter un désastre complet le Général et son fils ont cité devant le Juge des référés M. Valensi et le Général Tahar Ben Hassen pour en attendant de saisir la juridiction ordinaire faire nommer provisoirement un Administrateur chargé de procéder pour compte de qui de droit à la vente dans les formes ordinaires des récoltes pendantes sur les propriétés saisies.

Sur cette assignation le Juge des référés a rendu le 28 Décembre, 1885 une Ordonnance aux termes de laquelle il nommait un Administrateur pour vendre les récoltes saisies par l'huissier sur l'ordre de Valensi, et quant à celles saisies par Tahar Ben Hassen en sa qualité et en vertu de ses pouvoirs le Gouverneur de l'Eloctan-el-Kelli se déclarait incompétent pour en connaître, s'agissant sur ce point d'un acte de l'autorité Tunisienne.

Tous ces faits se trouvent constatés dans un procès-verbal de Granjon, huissier, qui a été signifié le 12 Avril, 1886, à M. Gueydan, défenseur de Tahar Ben Hassen.

Le Général Ben Ayad a cependant voulu essayer de payer en dommages-intérêts

devant le Tribunal Français de Tunis M. Valensi et Tahar Ben Hassen. Un Jugement du 31 Juillet, 1886, a mis ce dernier hors de cause par le motif qu'il avait agi en conformité des coutumes Tunisiennes et n'était pas au courant des formes de la procédure Française.

L'affaire est actuellement devant la Cour d'Alger sur l'appel du Jugement du 31 Juillet, 1886, émis par le Général Ben Ayad, mais l'opposition signifiée par le Bey à la vente faite à Hadj Ayad et la saisie irrégulière du Général Tahar Ben Hassen lui ont causé un préjudice considérable.

### 2. Affaire Nuée.

Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad est propriétaire de terrains à Tunis dans le quartier de la Marine, qu'il a occupés sans contestation pendant près de quarante ans. Il y a quelques années le Collège Sadiki a fait des prétentions au sujet de ces terrains et le Général, d'après le conseil de l'Administration, y mit des gardiens. En 1884, M. A. Nuée, négociant à Tunis, se faisant fort de la concession du Collège Sadiki et prétendant tenir la concession d'un terrain par l'intermédiaire d'un sous-acheteur du dit Collège, eut, recours au Juge de Paix de la ville qui introduisit une action possessoire. M. A. Nuée fut débouté de sa prétention et le Général Ben Ayad maintenu en possession, continu à louer son terrain à des particuliers qui y déposaient leurs véhicules.

Au mois de Mai 1886 parut un Arrêté de la Municipalité de Tunis prescrivant aux propriétaires de terrains vagues de les entourer de clôtures. Le Général Ben Ayad, bien avant la prise de l'Arrêté, avait demandé l'autorisation Municipale nécessaire pour clore son terrain; aucune réponse ne lui avait été donnée. M. Nuée a été plus heureux; il n'a eu qu'à présenter la requête de clôture pour ce terrain, dont il n'avait ni la propriété ni la possession, l'autorisation lui a été immédiatement octroyée. Et M. Nuée, avec l'assistance de la police, a fait clore son terrain et les locataires du Général, s'est emparé du terrain et l'a fait clore. Le Jugement maintenant Hamida Ben Ayad en possession est donc resté lettre-morte.

### 3. Affaire Salmoun.

Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad possède une vaste domaine appelée Salmoun, qui est en sa possession depuis plus de quarante ans. Certaines parties en ont été louées à diverses époques et il y a huit ou dix ans environ des voisins ou des locataires de la propriété s'emparèrent de quelques parcelles. Le Général s'adressa au Bey Mohammed Es Sadek qui, sur le rapport à lui fait par le Caïd, rendit un "Amra" ordonnant au Gouverneur de la Province de remettre Hamida Ben Ayad en possession et de lui faire payer les arriérés de fermage.

En 1884 le Général obtint du Bey actuel un nouvel "Amra" ratifiant le premier. Il n'est pas parvenu davantage à le faire exécuter et ses réclamations au Gouverneur de la Province ne reçoivent que des réponses dilatoires.

Telles sont, M. le Ministre, les réclamations du Général. Il est certain que pour les affaires Nuée et Salmoun, le Général Ben Ayad attend seulement de votre justice que vous voudriez bien donner des instructions à vos subordonnés pour que les décisions des autorités compétentes soient strictement exécutées. Quant à la première réclamation, si l'on peut dire que le dommage causé au Général par l'opposition à la vente faite à Hadj Ayad est le fait personnel du Souverain, il est certain que le Gouvernement Tunisien doit répondre des actes du Gouverneur Tahar Ben Hassen et des conséquences de la saisie irrégulière pratiquée contre Hamida Ben Ayad.

J'ai eu l'honneur également, M. le Ministre, de vous entretenir des difficultés actuellement pendantes devant la Cour d'Alger entre le Général Ben Ayad et le Gouvernement Tunisien à l'occasion de l'exécution de la Sentence Arbitrale du 5 Mai, 1884, qui a condamné le Général Ben Ayad à payer la somme de 1,181,426 piastres pour solde de créances mobilières.

Je vous ai exposé que les Arbitres étaient sortis des termes et limites du compromis en se prononçant sur des réclamations antérieures au 23 Mars, 1870, et que ce fait devait empêcher le Tribunal Français de maintenir l'Ordonnance d'exécution. J'espère vous avoir démontré que les Arbitres en outrepassant leurs pouvoirs étaient arrivés à une véritable iniquité, car le Général, en 1870, pour une créance classée de 1,713,015 piastres, n'avait reçu qu'un dividende de 835,000 piastres en titres de la Dette Tunisienne, valant au cours de l'époque tout au plus 210,000 piastres.

Si les Arbitres avaient tenu compte du dividende réel touché par Ben Ayad en 1870 dans le Règlement Général auquel ils ont voulu procéder, ils seraient arrivés à le reconnaître non pas débiteur mais bien créancier de 808,574 piastres.

S'ils s'étaient strictement maintenus dans les limites de leur pouvoir de juridiction, c'est-à-dire, s'ils n'avaient fait porter leur décision que sur des créances postérieures à 1870, ils l'aurait déclaré créancier de 469,181 piastres.

C'est le résultat auquel on arrive en faisant disparaître de la Sentence toutes les créances antérieures à 1870, et ces faits sont acquis sans formuler la moindre critique contre les Jugements portés par les Arbitres dans cette affaire surchargée de chefs de réclamations.

Je connais, M. le Ministre, les sentiments d'équité et de conciliation dont vous êtes animé, et s'il pouvait être dans les convenances du Gouvernement Tunisien d'entrer dans la voie de la conciliation, je crois pouvoir vous donner l'assurance que le Général Ben Ayad serait heureux de mettre un terme aux difficultés pendantes, dût-il faire un sacrifice pour sortir de l'état d'opposition où cette affaire le place vis-à-vis du Gouvernement.

Il a déjà été question de transaction entre le Général Ben Ayad et le Gouvernement Tunisien, mais comme le Gouvernement à ce moment-là exigeait du Général une renonciation à toutes ses réclamations antérieures, je vais, M. le Ministre, vous les exposer successivement pour qu'une transaction, si elle intervient, puisse embrasser toutes les difficultés existantes.

### 1. Propriétés vendues à Mohamed Bey.

Les héritiers de Mohamed Ben Ayad ont, dans le courant de Juin 1887 (Choual 1273), vendu à Mohamed Bey un certain nombre de propriétés situées à la Marine et aux environs de Tunis pour une somme de 270,300 piastres. Ce prix n'a pas été payé, et le Bey a achetés à Hamida Ben Ayad un "Amra" ainsi conçu: "A notre fils Hamida Ben Ayad, que la paix soit avec lui. Nous devons vous payer en numéraire 270,300 piastres, montant de propriétés, et les dépenses inhérentes ("masroufs") de ces propriétés que nous avons achetées de vous et des autres héritiers qui sont avec vous, par l'entremise du sublime Chahaa, étant représenté par le respectable notre fils, le Colonel Hachou Ben Achour."

Ces propriétés se trouvent aujourd'hui en la possession du Gouvernement, qui, si les renseignements de Hamida Ben Ayad sont exacts, aurait, en prenant les biens de Mohamed Bey, décidé accepter formellement l'obligation de désintéresser ses créanciers.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le vendeur impayé a le droit de s'adresser au détenteur actuel pour se faire désintéresser.

Cette créance de 270,300 piastres en capital doit être augmentée des intérêts, le titre du Général lui rendant le droit de demander les "masroufs", mot qui dans la langue Arabe est l'équivalent d'intérêts.

### 2. "Fondouk" au Avenue de Bab Djedid.

Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad a acheté en Moharrem 1286 (Juillet 1863) du Gouvernement Tunisien, moyennant un "ensel" de 700 piastres, un "fondouk" situé en face de sa maison d'habitation, et dans lequel se trouve actuellement le poste de police de l'Avenue de Bab-el-Djedid.

Ce "fondouk" fut pris il y a quelques années par le Gouvernement pour y installer des soldats dans un moment d'effervescence populaire, et depuis, il n'a pas été rendu.

Le Général qui a cessé de payer "l'ensel" depuis le moment de l'occupation par les soldats parce qu'il est créancier d'une location au moins équivalente, a le droit de reprendre la possession de son immeuble.

### 3. Boutiques situées Avenue de la Marine.

Le Général Ben Ayad a acheté en Djoumad Elitani 1262 (Juin 1846) le terrain dont font partie les deux boutiques en façade aujourd'hui sur l'Avenue de la Marine, au coin de la rue devant le nouvel entrepôt des tabacs.

Le droit de propriété de Ben Ayad a été confirmé par une expertise à laquelle il fut procédé en Djoumad El-Aouel (Juin 1876) sur l'ordre du Général Khérédine, alors que le Gouvernement, se prétendant créancier du Général Ben Ayad, avait exigé le dépôt du titre au Consulat d'Angleterre pendant la discussion des comptes pour servir de garantie éventuelle à sa créance.

Ces boutiques furent prêtées au Général Hussein qui en 1882 les loua pour son compte personnel à un Sieur J. B. Bergni, sujet Italien. Le Général Ben Ayad, par

l'entremise des Consuls d'Angleterre et d'Italie, protesta le 13 Février, 1882, contre cette location, et le Général Hussein remit les boutiques au Gouvernement, qui en a pris possession sans aucun titre.

#### 4. Terrain cédé au Consulat de France.

Du terrain dont il vient d'être parlé fut détaché en 1856 une parcelle destinée à agrandir le bâtiment et le jardin du Consulat de France. Sur cette parcelle se trouvait un café avec un jardin attenant.

Le Général Hussein, Président de la Municipalité, écrivit le 22 Ramadan, 1272 (27 Mai, 1856), au Général Ben Ayad, pour l'informer qu'un expert serait nommé pour évaluer la construction démolie et la surface du terrain.

Cette affaire n'a pas encore été réglée.

Telles sont, M. le Ministre, les réclamations immobilières sur lesquelles le Général a désiré que vous fussiez complètement informé.

Je suis à votre entière disposition pour vous produire les titres de propriétés et de créances dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous entretenir dans cette note; et s'il est possible de trouver un moyen amiable de tout terminer, je puis vous assurer que le Général Ben Ayad est animé des dispositions les plus conciliantes, persuadé que le Ministre-Résident de France ne lui demandera jamais rien que d'équitable et lui tiendra compte du sacrifice, auquel il est par avance disposé.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) A. AICARD.

Inclusure 3 in No. 150.

#### Projet de Transaction de M. Dupierre.

L'AN 1885 et le

Entre les Soussignés

Le Général de Division, Mohamed el Aziz bou Attour, Premier Ministre, représentant le Gouvernement Tunisien en vertu des pouvoirs spéciaux qui lui ont été conférés par Amra de Son Altesse le Bey en date du , pouvoirs dont une expédition demeure ci-jointe, qui a son domicile à Tunis dans les bureaux de la Direction des Finances à Dar el Bey,

Et le Général Hamida Ben Ayad, demeurant et domicilié à Tunis, où il fait élection de domicile pour tout ce qui pourra concerner l'exécution des présentes.

Il a été expliqué et convenu ce qui suit :

1. La suite de difficultés survenues entre le Gouvernement Tunisien et le Général Hamida Ben Ayad, et sur la demande expresse de ce dernier, un arbitrage a été institué entre les parties et une Sentence arbitrale rendue le 5 Mai, 1884. Cette Sentence déposée au greffe du Tribunal Civil de Tunis le 7 du même mois, a été rendue exécutoire par une Ordonnance de M. le Président de ce Tribunal en date du même jour. Elle a été signifiée au Général Ben Ayad à la requête du Gouvernement Tunisien par exploit de M. Granjon, huissier à Tunis, du 21 Mai, 1884.

Cet exploit contenait commandement au Général Ben Ayad de payer —

1. La somme de 1,181,406 p. 7 c., montant en principal de condamnation prononcée contre lui au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien par la Sentence Arbitrale.

2. Les intérêts de droit

3. Celle de 15,850 piastres montant de la moitié des frais de l'arbitrage avancés par le Gouvernement Tunisien et mis par la Sentence à la charge du Général Ben Ayad.

4. Le montant des frais faits ou à faire que le Gouvernement a dû déboursier pour arriver à faire exécuter la Sentence, et qui actuellement peuvent être évalués à 194 p. 10 c.

Par un premier exploit du 19 Juin, 1884, le Général Ben Ayad a fait signifier au Gouvernement Tunisien qu'il formait opposition à l'Ordonnance de M. le Président du Tribunal de Tunis rendant exécutoire la Sentence Arbitrale, et par un second exploit du 20 du même mois, il a déclaré interjeter appel de la dite Sentence devant la Cour d'Alger.

Le Tribunal Civil de Tunis appelé à statuer sur l'opposition du 19 Juin, 1884, a rendu le 17 Décembre, 1884, un Jugement qui déboute le Général Ben Ayad de son

opposition, et a ordonné que l'Ordonnance d'exécution apposée le 7 Mai, 1884, à la suite de la Sentence Arbitrale, sortirait sous plein et entier effet. Ce Jugement a été signifié à partie et à défendeur par deux exploits du 31 Décembre, 1884.

Par acte de Soulet, huissier, du 29 Janvier, 1886, le Général Ben Ayad a interjeté appel du Jugement précité du 17 Décembre, 1884.

Les choses en l'état, le Général Hamida Ben Ayad a présenté au Gouvernement Tunisien des offres de transaction. Ces offres ayant été examinées et débattues, les parties désireuses d'arriver à une conciliation de tous leurs différends, sont arrivées à conclure l'arrangement suivant :—

Article 1. Le Général Ben Ayad reconnaît le bien fondé de la Sentence Arbitrale rendue contre lui le 5 Mai, 1884, il renonce en conséquence, sans aucune réserve, aux appels qu'il a formés contre cette Sentence et contre son exécution.

Il renonce, mais seulement jusqu'à concurrence de la part et portion dont il serait reconnu propriétaire, à toute action immobilière fondée sur des droits acquis avant le 8 Djoumadi Elkari, 1301 (5 Avril, 1884), qu'il pourrait avoir à exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien soit directement, soit indirectement, en réclamant à des tiers ayant eu des intérêts communs avec le Gouvernement, et ayant recours contre ce dernier qu'il s'agisse de biens acquis créés entre les mains du Gouvernement ou dont celui-ci aurait disposé et dont le prix n'aurait pas été payé, soit de toute autre

Il renonce également à toute demande de paiement de sommes, à titre d'indemnité ou à quelque titre que ce soit, relativement à des actions de cette nature.

En outre, et pour le cas où, à la suite de concessions consenties par lui à des tiers, soit à titre gratuit, soit à titre onéreux, de droits immobiliers ayant pris naissance et lui ayant appartenu avant la date précitée, le Gouvernement Tunisien serait attaqué devant les Tribunaux, le Général Hamida s'engage à intervenir et s'oblige à garantir le Gouvernement en principal, intérêts, et frais, de toutes les condamnations qui seraient prononcées contre lui.

Il reconnaît, notamment, les droits de l'Etat à la propriété du moulin situé à la Gelleida, dont il a pris indûment possession et au sujet duquel un procès est actuellement suivi devant le Tribunal de Charra.

Art. 2. En considération de ces renoncements et engagements qu'il accepte comme condition essentielle, de la présente transaction, le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, au nom qu'il agit, déclare réduire à la somme de 400,000 piastres le montant de la condamnation principale élevée à 1,181,406 p. 7 c. prononcée au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien contre le Général Ben Ayad par la Sentence Arbitrale du 5 Mai, 1884. Dans cette réduction se trouve comprise la remise de la somme de 86,000 piastres, sollicitée par les Arbitres postérieurement à la rédaction de la Sentence.

Il renonce à réclamer les intérêts de la créance échus jusqu'à ce jour.

De même il renonce à toute action immobilière fondée sur des droits acquis antérieurement au 8 Djoumadi Elkari, 1301, que le domaine de l'Etat pourrait avoir à exercer contre le Général, sous réserve toutefois des droits que celui-ci pourrait avoir acquis de Mustapha Ben Ismail ou de ses cessionnaires et qui auraient pour objet des biens revendiqués à Mustapha par l'Etat comme étant ses propriétés.

Art. 3. Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad accepte la réduction de sa créance ainsi que les renoncements faites en sa faveur, mentionnés dans l'Article qui précède.

Art. 4. Le Général Hamida offre au Gouvernement Tunisien ce qui est accepté pour lui par le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, de se libérer de la manière suivante de la somme dont il reste débiteur envers le Trésor, savoir :—

1. Des 15,850 piastres, montant de la moitié des honoraires payés aux Arbitres, mis à sa charge par la Sentence, et des frais de poursuite exposés jusqu'à ce jour et s'élevant à francs, au moment même de la signature des présentes;

2. Des 400,000 piastres à laquelle est réduite la condamnation principale prononcée par la Sentence, en dix années, par acomptes de 40,000 piastres chacun, le premier payable à l'instant même, et les neuf autres d'année en année, à partir de la date du premier paiement jusqu'à complète extinction de la créance sans intérêts.

La quittance à souche de la somme représentant les honoraires et frais et le premier acompte a été immédiatement délivrée par le Receveur-Général des Finances au Général Hamida Ben Ayad.

Art. 5. Pour garantie des 240,000 piastres qui seront payées en dernier lieu et qui représentent les six dernières échéances, le Général Ben Ayad consent une première hypothèque sur des propriétés lui appartenant ou appartenant à des tiers, intervenant et acceptant hypothèque qui est acceptée par le Gouvernement Tunisien. Les titres



seront conservés, jusqu'à parfait paiement, à la Caisse du Receveur-Général des Finances, qui en prendra charge.

Pour assurer le paiement des 120,000 piastres montant des deuxième, troisième, et quatrième acompte, le Général Hamida Ben Ayad a souscrit trois billets à ordre de 40,000 piastres chacun, le premier à l'échéance du , le second à l'échéance du , le troisième à l'échéance du .

Le paiement de chacun de ces billets, aux échéances indiquées, est garanti solidairement avec le Général Ben Ayad par MM et par le Général Mohammed-el-Baccouche, à ce présent et intervenant qui ont reconnu leur obligation par une mention expresse apposée sur chacun des billets.

A défaut de paiement d'un acompte à son échéance et deux mois après, une sommation signifiée par l'usier et demeurée sans effet, tout ce qui restera encore dû sur la créance deviendra immédiatement exigible, et le Gouvernement Tunisien poursuivra à la fois, l'expropriation des immeubles hypothéqués, le débiteur et les garants.

Art. 6. La première hypothèque, dont il est parlé à l'Article précédent, portera

1. Sur un Hâchir situé près de Portofacina, connu sous le nom de Hâchir-el-Zriba, d'une contenance approximative de 1,931 hectares, tel qu'il est figuré au plan ci-joint, acquis de son Altesse le Prince Taieb Bey, par M. Abdel Gelil ben Hamuda Ben Ayad, intervenant et acceptant les obligations qu'entraîne pour lui la présente constitution.

2. Sur une maison sise à Tunis, au quartier de Sidi Ben Arons, propriété personnelle du Général Hamida Ben Ayad.

Le Général Hamuda et son fils Abdel Gelil expliquent que les titres de ces propriétés sont actuellement déposés, à titre de constitution d'hypothèque, entre les mains du Sieur Cicca Bossis pour garantie du paiement d'une somme de montant d'un emprunt précédemment contracté par eux, mais qu'ils sont en mesure de rembourser, ce qui va leur permettre de reprendre la libre disposition des propriétés hypothéquées au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien.

En attendant que ces titres soient libérés et qu'ils puissent être déposés au Trésor, le Général Hamuda, du consentement de M. Taieb Ben Ayad, en présent et s'obligeant avec son père, dépose entre les mains du Receveur-Général des Finances le double du récépissé délivré le 8 Février, 1885, par le fondé de pouvoirs de la Banque de Tunisie, des titres de propriété des domaines de Bou Chetour au Outique et de Tarfa, vendus par le Général Ben Ayad à M. Francis Franck, propriétaire à Paris, ainsi qu'il ressort d'un acte sous signature privée en date du même jour, 8 Février, 1885. Il est constaté dans cet acte que sur le prix de vente, s'élevant à 600,000 fr., il n'a été payé comptant que 280,000 fr., et que pour le surplus, soit 320,000 fr., il a été délivré par le mandataire de M. Franck un billet de la dite somme à l'échéance maximum du 15 Février, 1888, au profit du Général Hamuda Ben Ayad. Celui-ci a cédé ce billet, le même jour, 8 Février, 1885, à son fils Taieb. Aux termes du même acte de vente il a été convenu entre les parties contractantes que, jusqu'à l'entier paiement du prix, les titres resteraient déposés à la Banque de Tunisie qui en délivrerait un double récépissé et demeureraient hypothéqués à la garantie de ce paiement. L'un des récépissés a été remis au Général Hamuda Ben Ayad et l'autre à M. Franck, acquéreur. Par ce récépissé la Banque de Tunisie s'engage formellement et sous sa responsabilité à ne remettre les titres à M. Franck qu'après la présentation des deux originaux.

En faisant le dépôt du double récépissé dont il est détenteur, M. Taieb Ben Ayad et avec lui et autant que de besoin, le Général Hamuda Ben Ayad déclarent céder au Gouvernement Tunisien l'hypothèque qu'ils se sont réservée contre M. Franck et lui donnent tout pouvoir pour, s'il y a lieu, signifier le présent à M. Franck et toucher en leur lieu et place, le montant du solde des propriétés vendues, jusqu'à concurrence du montant de ce qui restera dû au Trésor pour les causes du présent acte, et faire toutes les poursuites nécessaires en vue du recouvrement de cette créance.

Le Directeur Général des Finances reconnaît avoir reçu le double du récépissé dont il s'agit, qu'il restituera à M. Taieb Ben Ayad, ou qu'il lui sera fait remise des titres de propriété constitués en hypothèque au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien, conformément à ce qui a été dit ci-dessus.

Art. 7. Tous les frais du présent Acte s'élevant à fr., et tous ceux qui deviendraient nécessaires pour assurer son exécution resteront à la charge du Général Hamida Ben Ayad.

Fait à Tunis en six expéditions les jour, mois, et an ci-dessus.

Incluse 4 in No. 150.

Premier Projet de Transaction remis à M. Massicault le 2 Février, 1887.

PAR la présente Convention, faite et signée à double original entre les soussignés, le Général de Division, Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, Premier Ministre, représentant le Gouvernement Tunisien, en vertu des pouvoirs spéciaux qui lui ont été conférés par "Amra" de Son Altesse le Bey, en date du , pouvoirs dont une expédition demeure ci-annexée, qui élit domicile à Tunis dans les bureaux de la Direction des Finances à Dar-el-Bey; et le Général de Brigade Hamida Ben Ayad, domicilié et demeurant à Tunis, où il fait élection de domicile pour tout ce qui pourra concerner l'exécution des présentes;

Il a été exposé et convenu ce qui suit

A la suite de difficultés survenues entre le Gouvernement Tunisien et le Général Hamida Ben Ayad, un arbitrage a eu lieu entre les parties, et une Sentence a été rendue le 5 Mai, 1884.

Cette Sentence, déposée au greffe du Tribunal Civil de Tunis le 7 du même mois, a été rendue exécutoire par une Ordonnance de M. le Président de ce Tribunal en date du même jour. Elle a été signifiée au Général Ben Ayad, à la requête du Gouvernement Tunisien par exploit de M. Girard, usier à Tunis, en date du 21 Mai, 1884, contenant commandement au Général Ben Ayad de payer la somme de 1,181,420 piastres, montant en principal des condamnations prononcées contre lui au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien par la Sentence Arbitrale, avec intérêts de droit, frais de l'arbitrage, et dépens.

Par un premier exploit du 10 Juin, 1884, le Général Ben Ayad a fait signifier au Gouvernement Tunisien qu'il formait opposition à l'Ordonnance de M. le Président du Tribunal de Tunis, rendant exécutoire la Sentence Arbitrale, et par un second exploit du même mois il a déclaré interjeter appel de la dite Sentence devant la Cour d'Alger.

Le Tribunal Civil de Tunis appelé à statuer sur l'opposition du 10 Juin, 1884, a rendu, le 17 Décembre, 1884, un Jugement qui déboute le Général Ben Ayad de son opposition, et ordonne que l'Ordonnance d'exécution, apposée le 7 Mai, 1884, à la suite de la Sentence Arbitrale, sorte son plein effet. Ce Jugement a été signifié à défenseur et à partie par deux exploits du 31 Décembre, 1884.

Par acte de Soulet, huissier, en date du 29 Janvier, 1885, le Général Ben Ayad a interjeté appel du Jugement précité du 17 Décembre, 1884.

Les choses en l'état le Général Ben Ayad, désireux de mettre un terme aux difficultés dont il vient d'être parlé, comme aussi de supprimer la source de toute réclamation immobilière qu'il pourrait avoir à exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien, fait des offres de transaction. Ces offres ont été examinées et débattues, les parties pour terminer amiablement les différends de toute nature qui les divisent, sont arrivées à conclure l'arrangement suivant :

Art. 1. Le Général Hamuda Ben Ayad accepte la Sentence Arbitrale rendue contre lui le 5 Mai, 1884, il renonce en conséquence sans aucune réserve, aux oppositions qu'il a formées contre cette Sentence et contre son exécution.

Art. 2. Le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, au nom de qui il agit en considération des renoncations et engagements dont il va être parlé ci-après, et qui forment une condition essentielle de la présente transaction, déclare réduire à la somme de 200,000 piastres, payables contre l'acte de l'acte, le montant des condamnations prononcées au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien contre le Général Ben Ayad par la Sentence Arbitrale du 5 Mai, 1884.

Art. 3. Le Général Ben Ayad renonce à toute action immobilière qu'il pourrait avoir à exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien soit directement, soit indirectement en recourant à des tiers ayant eu des intérêts communs avec le Gouvernement et ayant recours ou garantie contre ce dernier, qu'il s'agisse de biens acquis restés entre les mains du Gouvernement, ou dont celui-ci aurait disposé, et dont le prix n'aurait pas été payé, soit de toute autre cause.

Il renonce également à toute demande d'indemnité ou de paiement de donner à quelque titre que ce soit relativement à des actions de cette nature.

Art. 4. Le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, en sa qualité, fait en faveur du Général Ben Ayad toutes les renoncations énumérées à l'Article précédent.

Art. 5. Les renoncations directes et indirectes du Général Ben Ayad ayant une portée générale et absolue, le Général déclare qu'il entend conserver ses droits contre

les héritiers de Mohammed Bey relativement à des propriétés vendues à leur auteur (Hawal 1273) pour le prix de 270,399 piastres.

De même, le Général Hamuda Ben Ayad conserve les droits qui peuvent lui appartenir dans la succession de son aïeul, Mohammed Ben Ayad, de son père, Abderrahman Ben Ayad, et de son oncle, Mahmoud Ben Ayad.

Enfin, relativement aux terrains en bordure sur la Rue d'Italie, sis au sud de deux entrepôts de tabacs dont quelques-uns sont l'objet d'instances pendantes devant le Tribunal de Tunis, et qui, d'après les adversaires du Général, auraient été concédés par le Collège Sadiki, le Général Ben Ayad ne renonce pas à poursuivre des droits qui résultent pour lui de son titre de propriété de 1262.

Art. 6. La somme de 200,000 piastres, dont il a été parlé à l'Article 2, sera payée au moyen de dix effets à l'ordre du Gouvernement fournis par le Général sur la Banque de Tunisie et acceptés par elle. Ces effets seront de 20,000 piastres chacun, et viendront à échéance, d'année en année, à partir de ce jour.

Art. 7. Tous les frais qui devront être exposés pour assurer l'exécution du présent acte resteront à la charge de la partie qui les aura rendus nécessaires.

Tunis, le

#### Inclusure 5 in No. 150.

*Second Projet de Transaction remis à M. Benoit, Premier Secrétaire d'Ambassade, le 5 Février, 1887.*

PAR la présente Convention, faite et signée à double original, entre les Sou-

signés :  
Le Général de Division, Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, Premier Ministre, représentant le Gouvernement Tunisien en vertu des pouvoirs spéciaux qui lui ont été conférés par "Amra" de Son Altesse le Bey en date du , pouvoirs dont une expédition demeure et annexe, qui s'est domicilié à Tunis dans les bureaux de la Direction des Finances, au Dar el-Bey, et Le Général de Brigade, Hamuda Ben Ayad, domicilié et demeurant à Tunis, ou il fut élu et élu de domicile pour tout ce qui pourra concerner l'exécution des présentes. —

Il a été exposé et convenu ce qui suit :

A la suite des difficultés survenues entre le Gouvernement Tunisien et le Général Hamuda Ben Ayad, un arbitrage a eu lieu entre les parties, et une Sentence a été rendue le 5 Mai, 1884.

Cette Sentence, déposée au greffe du Tribunal Civil de Tunis le 7 du même mois, a été rendue exécutoire par une Ordonnance de M. le Président de ce Tribunal, en date du même jour.

Il a été signifié au Général Ben Ayad, à la requête du Gouvernement Tunisien, par exploit de M. Granjon, huissier à Tunis, en date du 21 Mai, 1884, contenant commandement au Général Ben Ayad de payer la somme de 1,151,426 piastres, montant en principal des condamnations prononcées contre lui au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien par la Sentence Arbitrale, avec intérêts de droit, frais de l'arbitrage, et dépens.

Par un premier exploit du 19 Juin, 1884, le Général Ben Ayad a fait signifier au Gouvernement Tunisien qu'il formait opposition à l'Ordonnance de M. le Président du Tribunal de Tunis rendant exécutoire la Sentence Arbitrale, et par un second exploit du même mois, il a déclaré interjeter appel de la dite Sentence devant la Cour d'Alger.

Le Tribunal Civil de Tunis, appelé à statuer sur l'opposition du 19 Juin, 1884, a rendu le 17 Décembre, 1884, un jugement qui déboute le Général Ben Ayad de son opposition, et ordonne que l'Ordonnance d'exécution approuvée le 7 Mai, 1884, à la suite de la Sentence Arbitrale, sortira son plein et entier effet.

Le Jugement a été signifié à défenseur et à partie par deux exploits du 31 Décembre, 1884.

Par acte de Soulet, huissier, en date du 29 Janvier, 1885, le Général Ben Ayad a interjeté appel du Jugement précité du 17 Décembre, 1884.

Les choses en l'état, le Général Ben Ayad, désireux de mettre un terme aux difficultés dont il vient d'être parlé, comme aussi de supprimer la source de toute réclamation immobilière qu'il pourrait avoir à exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien, a fait des offres de transaction. Ces offres ont été examinées et débattues,

et les parties, pour terminer amiablement les différends de toute nature qui les divisent, sont arrivées à conclure l'arrangement suivant :—

Article 1<sup>er</sup>. Le Général Hamuda Ben Ayad accepte la Sentence Arbitrale rendue contre lui le 5 Mai, 1884. Il renonce, en conséquence, sans aucune réserve, aux oppositions et appels qu'il a formés contre cette Sentence et contre son exécution.

Art. 2. Le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, au nom de qui il agit, en considération des renonciations et engagements dont il va être parlé, et après avoir déclaré réduire pour solde à la somme de 300,000 piastres, payable comme il sera dit, le montant des condamnations prononcées au profit du Gouvernement Tunisien contre le Général Ben Ayad par la Sentence Arbitrale du 5 Mai, 1884. Dans cette réduction se trouve comprise la remise de la somme de 80,000 piastres sollicitée par les Arbitres postérieurement à la rédaction de la Sentence.

Art. 3. Le Général Ben Ayad renonce pour les droits acquis de son chef et non du chef de son aïeul, Mohamed, de son père, Abderrahman, et de son oncle, Mahmoud, à exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien aucune action immobilière et aucune demande de paiement de sommes à titre d'indemnité, ou à quelque titre que ce soit, relativement à des actions de cette nature.

De même, dans le cas où le Général viendrait à exercer contre des tiers pour les droits acquis de son chef, les actions de cette nature, et où le Gouvernement Tunisien serait mis en cause, le Général s'engage à intervenir au procès, et à garantir le Gouvernement en principal, intérêts, et frais, de toutes les condamnations qui seraient prononcées contre lui.

Art. 4. Le Général Mohamed El Aziz bou Attour, en sa qualité, fait en faveur du Général Ben Ayad toutes les renonciations énumérées à l'Article précédent.

Art. 5. Tout spécialement le Général Ben Ayad cède au Gouvernement Tunisien la propriété des deux boutiques sises Avenue de la Marine, au coin de la Rue d'Italie, au-devant du nouvel entrepôt des tabacs; ainsi que celle du Fondouk, situé Avenue de Bab Djérid, en face de sa maison d'habitation, et dans lequel se trouve établi un poste de police.

Art. 6. La somme de 300,000 piastres, dont il a été parlé à l'Article 2, et qui forme le montant pour solde de toutes les réclamations du Gouvernement Tunisien, sera payée au moyen de dix effets à l'ordre du Gouvernement, fournis par le Général, sur la Banque de Tunisie, et acceptés par elle. Ces effets seront de 30,000 piastres chacun, et viendront à l'échéance d'année en année à partir de ce jour.

Art. 7. Tous les frais qui devront être exposés pour assurer l'exécution du présent acte resteront à la charge de la partie qui les aura rendus nécessaires.

Tunis, le

#### No. 151

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)*

(No. 30. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, March 10, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 5 of the 7th instant, and to my reply of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that when I spoke to Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, respecting the substitution of words which Her Majesty's Government were desirous of effecting in the note which is to be addressed to the Morocco Government by the Representatives at Tangier of Spain, Italy, and Great Britain, I found that his Excellency was disinclined at first to agree to an alteration of the word "appui" for those of "bons offices." He appeared to consider the latter as not sufficiently strong, and as ill-calculated to impress the counsellors of His Shereefian Majesty.

I pointed out, however, to Señor Moret that the words "bons offices," which in English meant "good offices," expressed exactly the measure of the engagement which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to take in the matter. The word "appui," I said, would mean in English "support" or "assistance," and was considerably misleading, and might give rise to erroneous constructions being placed upon it.

I urged his Excellency to regard the question in its true light, and instead of raising difficulties as to words to look simply to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, of which there could exist no doubt; and I assured him that the moment Her Majesty's Government consented to join the Governments of Spain and Italy in a joint note to be addressed for a certain object to another Power, no doubt could exist as to

their earnestness in the matter, or to their desire to carry out the object for which the note in question was framed.

After a short discussion, Señor Moret was convinced, and gave his assent to the proposed alteration.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 152.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 110. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 105 and 122.]

No. 153.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.\**

(No. 120.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. White's No. 75 of February 20, 1887: *ante*, No. 121.]

No. 154.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford*

(No. 35. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*  
Sir, I HAVE received your despatch No. 32, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you used to Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, as reported therein, in connection with the question of the maintenance of the independence and integrity of the Moroccan Empire.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of No. 21 to Mr. Kirby Green of February 24, 1887: *ante*, No. 105.]

No. 156.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.†*

(No. 44.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 51 of February 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 120.]

\* Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 38), and Mr. Kirby Green (No. 33).  
† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 121), Sir Clare Ford (No. 29), Mr. Kirby Green (No. 33), Mr. Petre (No. 10), Mr. Corbett (No. 11), and Lord Visian (No. 42).

No. 157.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 30.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 77 of the 9th December last, and I have to convey to you my approval of the advice and assurances which you propose to tender to the Sultan in regard to opening the Soos country, as well as other districts, to commerce, and respecting the British factory at Cape Juby.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 158.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 31.)

*Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 30 of February 27, 1887: *ante*, No. 122.]

No. 159.

*Sir J. Parncefote to Messrs. Tweedie.*

Gentlemen,

*Foreign Office, March 14, 1887.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th January last,\* and to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that a further despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers in regard to the case of General Hamid Benayad.

Sir R. L. Playfair reports that, thanks no doubt to the action of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, of which you were informed in the letter from this Office of the 11th January last, he found M. Massicault, the new Resident-General at Tunis, quite willing to give the case his serious consideration, when he called upon him to explain the details, accompanied by Maître Aicard, General Benayad's "avocat," who had come from Marseilles to meet Sir R. L. Playfair.

The latter handed to M. Massicault a letter, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. But he explains that the "exposé" mentioned therein was drawn up by Sir R. L. Playfair, and that Sir R. L. Playfair thought it best that gentlemen should state the facts, which was substantially the same as that forwarded by yourselves on the 14th August last. Maître Aicard deemed it his duty, however, to include other matter as well which Sir R. Playfair could not possibly do, and which he fears may prejudice M. Massicault against the case. His report is in the Arbitration Award of the 30th May, 1887, which must certainly be a great relief to Her Majesty's Government as usual.

Sir R. L. Playfair calls attention to the circumstance that the General claimed about 4,000,000 of piastres from the Tunisian Government, and that the Arbitrators gave an award of 1,181,426 piastres against him. The General was dissatisfied with this judgment on the ground that they went beyond their "mandat" by including debts due by him prior to the 23rd March, 1870, and taking no account of sums due to him before the same date. Had both been equally taken into consideration, Benayad maintains that they must have given an award for a large sum in his favour.

Sir R. L. Playfair further reports that, on his own responsibility, and without any advice from himself, the General had made an appeal to the High Court at Algiers, which is still pending.

But the present intervention in his behalf must only be considered as affecting matters subsequent to the arbitration.

Sir R. L. Playfair understands that the General is quite ready to abandon this appeal and all other subjects of litigation if any reasonable compromise can be suggested by the Resident-General, and the latter expressed his earnest desire to settle the matter once for all.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PARNCEFOTE

\* Not printed.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 166.)

Foreign Office, March 15, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's telegram No. 6 of March 12, 1887: ante, No. 142.]

No. 161.

*Memorandum by Mr. Oakes on M. Giuseppe Pace's letter of February 17, 1887.*

M. GIUSEPPE PACE addressed the Foreign Office on the 12th October, 1883, on the subject of the murder by Arabs at Sfax of his son, whom he described as "the actual proof and solace and the future hope of his aged parent." He stated that he had, through Consul-General Reade, brought his case before the Commission of Inquiry, who had decided that the case was one that concerned France. He then petitioned M. Roustan to grant him a sum of money to alleviate his distress, but that the French Representative having been changed, he received no reply to his Petition. He therefore asked the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in advancing his claim.

He stated, in a subsequent letter, that the Commander of the French ship of war "Reine Blanche" had informed him that his affair had been discussed, and that it had been decided that he should receive compensation at Sfax. (15th January, 1884.)

M. Pace appears to have had two claims: one arising out of the destruction of his property (for which the Sfax Commission recommended compensation to the amount of 1,500 piastres), and the other on account of the murder of his son.

Consul-General Reade, having been instructed to report upon his case, stated, on the 20th January, 1884, that the claim which he had twice put before the French authorities had, on each occasion, been rejected, on the ground that the misfortune was caused by the imprudence of the deceased, who had returned on shore after the general exodus of Europeans had taken place (at the time of the disturbances at Sfax in July 1881), and had in this way met with his death.

He added that the claim in question had been put forward, with his other pretensions, before the Sfax Indemnity Commission, who had awarded him a sum *en bloc*. (It will be seen, however, from the printed papers containing the awards of the Commission, that the claim adjudicated upon was on account of "effects and goods." (Confidential Print No. 4830, p. 5.)

Mr. Reade added that Pace was the principal pilot of Sfax, and not apparently in indigent circumstances, and that he seemed inclined to trade somewhat on his son's death, and he suggested that the claim was not one which could be officially supported, but that if Pace could indicate the murderer of his son, he could prosecute him according to Tunisian Law.

The substance of this Report (omitting the reference to his circumstances, and his inclination to trade on his son's death) was communicated to M. Pace on the 30th January, 1884, and he replied, on the 1st March, that he could identify his son's murderers, and he requested that Her Majesty's Consul might obtain for him the necessary document to enable him to prosecute them. He further remarked that the compensation awarded him was in respect of the loss of his fortune, and not on account of the murder of his son.

Consul-General Reade was instructed to assist M. Pace to the extent requested, if he appeared to have a *prima facie* case.

After considerable delays, M. Pace wrote on the 10th June, 1885, to say that the inquiry into the murder of his son had at length taken place at Sfax before the Vice-Governor, assisted by Vice Consul Levassier and M. Leprieux, Registrar, and that on the close of the inquiry the persons accused had been allowed to remain at liberty, the Vice-Governor stating that he had no instructions to arrest them.

On the conclusion of the inquiry, the French Minister Resident, in sending the *procès-verbal* of the proceedings to the Acting British Consul at Tunis, inquired what his view of the question was, to which the latter replied on the 1st August 1885, that it only remained for the accused to be tried before the competent local Tribunal and to await its Judgment. (Enclosure in Acting Consul Malmusi's No. 23, 3rd August, 1885.)

\* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 123), Sir J. B. Leakey (No. 84), and Sir Clara Ford (No. 40).

He afterwards indicated a man named Ali-el-Mezani, one of the accused, as being one to whom the evidence pointed as being the author or instigator of the murder, and suggested his arrest and arraignment before the Courts. (No. 25, 11th September, 1885.)

Acting Consul Malmusi's conduct was approved, and he was instructed to keep M. Pace informed of the progress of the case. (No. 11, 30th September, 1885.)

On the 2nd November, 1885, Consul-General Playfair having examined into the case, and come to the conclusion that after so great a lapse of time there was no likelihood of the crime being brought home to the guilty parties, reported that he had, under these circumstances, addressed a note to the French Resident, suggesting that the best solution of the case would be arrived at by granting some compensation to Pace for the death of a son on whom he was in great measure dependent for support, and pointing out that the right of a father to such compensation had been recognized during the Algerian Insurrection in 1871, and also during the late troubles in Tunis.

Consul-General Playfair's proceedings were approved on the 14th November, 1885, since which date there is no further correspondence on the subject in the North African print (where the previous papers are printed) down to the end of 1886.

M. Pace now writes, referring to the correspondence of 1885, and stating that "justice" has been refused him because he has asked for money, this request being probably the one preferred by Consul-General Playfair in his account. There is nothing, however, to show that he has even received the pecuniary satisfaction for which Consul Playfair asked.

(Signed) A. H. OAKES.

Foreign Office, March 17, 1887.

No. 162.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)*

(No. 3. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Tunis, March 12, 1887.

THE French authorities in Tunis have latterly been credited with the intent on extending the jurisdiction of the French Tribunal to cases affecting real property in which the interests of foreigners are involved. Since the Convention of 1861, by the terms of which British subjects were entitled to hold real property, the only Courts competent to judge disputes affecting it were the Mussalman Tribunals of Sherifs. These have never inspired foreigners with confidence, and since the experience gained during the last three years of the independence and impartiality of the French Tribunal, there has been a growing desire on the part of the Anglo-Maltese community of Tunis, which I have reason to believe is shared by the other foreign colonies, that suits affecting real property should also be brought under its cognizance.

The French Resident-General confirmed the general expectation by informing me yesterday that it was his intention to propose to his Government that the jurisdiction of the French Court should embrace matters affecting real property in all cases where foreigners were interested parties, and that he did not anticipate that any opposition to this measure would be raised by foreign Governments.

A Commission which has been for some time engaged in studying the legislation affecting real property has suggested the institution in Tunis of a Court of Appeal for the convenience of suitors whose causes have now to be tried at Algiers. The decisions of the Appellate Court will be subject to the Court of Cassation at Paris, but it is hoped that Tunisian suitors may be exempted from the stamp and registration dues.

It is also proposed that a Tribunal of First Instance should be created for the southern half of the Regency, its head-quarters to be either at Sfax or Sfax, where at present Juges de Paix are the only French judicial authorities.

The Resident-General, M. Massicault, proceeds to Paris on the 14th instant, where he expects not to be detained over a fortnight.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH

No. 103.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 139. Most Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 18, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr Kirby Green's No. 36, Most Confidential, of March 6, 1887 ante, No. 147.]

No. 104

*Messrs Tweedie to Foreign Office.—Received March 19.)*

Sir,

*5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, March 18, 1887.*

WE are in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant and inclosed copy letter, dated the 24th January, 1887, addressed by Sir R. L. Playfair to M. Massicault, the French Resident at Tunis, relative to the affairs of General Ben Ayad.

We would first, in reply, admit that it was understood by us at our interview with you on the 25th August last, and also explained by us to General Ben Ayad, that the British Government felt that they could not interpose in respect of the Arbitration Award of the 5th May, 1884, and the Memorial dated September 1886, and sent to you with our letter of the 2nd September, 1886, was framed on that footing.

We feel with you that M. Aicard, the General's French "avocat," may perhaps have prejudiced his case and somewhat weakened Sir R. L. Playfair's hands by including matter in his "Exposé" (referred to in your letter) foreign to the claims set out in the Memorial of September 1886, though in support of M. Aicard's action we would quote from his letter of the 12th February 1887, to General Ben Ayad, in which, giving an account of an interview he had with M. Massicault on the 24th January, 1887, he remarks: "Il fut entendu que je remettrais à M. le Ministre une note indiquant toutes les difficultés pendantes et toutes celles à naître," from which we infer that the additional matters not recognized by or known to the British Government were imported into the "Exposé" of M. Aicard, at the suggestion of M. Massicault, with the object of arriving at a complete and final settlement of all the claims of General Ben Ayad.

With these remarks, may we ask that the British Government will not relax its efforts to aid General Ben Ayad in reference to the claims set out in the Memorial of September 1886, notwithstanding that additional claims have been set out in the "Exposé" of M. Aicard; and at the same time, we trust that we do not exceed our province if we venture to suggest that Sir R. L. Playfair should again see M. Massicault, with the object not only of arranging some definite and favourable result as to the claims comprised in the Memorial of September 1886, but also of indirectly influencing as far as proper and possible the good offices of M. Massicault towards a final and favourable settlement of all the claims of the general.

It will no doubt be appreciated that the uncertainty and unjust nature of the position of General Ben Ayad in reference to his just rights of great magnitude naturally cause him the greatest anxiety of mind; and as he is willing to make large concessions for the sake of a reasonable settlement of all matters in question, so we trust that such a settlement satisfactory to General Ben Ayad may be brought about by the joint and friendly action of Sir R. L. Playfair and M. Massicault.

We have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. F. AND B. W. TWEEDIE.

No. 105.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)*

(No. 37. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, March 12, 1887.*

THE collective note, addressed to Cid Enfadl Gharneet, of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy, was signed this morning by me and my Spanish and Italian colleagues, in the form indicated by your Lordship's telegram of the instant. It will reach the city of Morocco about the 17th or 18th, but I do not think it at all probable that the Sultan will make known his decision concerning

it until after my arrival at the Moorish Court, and which I have announced as likely to take place in the first days of April.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 103.

*Collective Note addressed to Cid Enfadl Gharneet by the Spanish, British, and Italian Ministers.*

(Après les compliments.)

LES Soussignés, Représentants de l'Espagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de l'Italie viennent de recevoir de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'ordre de porter à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le maintien de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité territoriale de l'Empire Marocain est l'objet de leur vive sollicitude. Les dits Gouvernements sont convaincus que le Sultan ne saurait méconnaître l'avantage que Sa Majesté aurait à s'assurer leurs bons offices pour arriver à ce but. Par conséquent les Soussignés, agissant d'après les instructions qu'ils ont reçues, ont l'honneur de demander par l'entremise de votre Excellence que Sa Majesté s'engage formellement vis-à-vis de leurs Gouvernements respectifs à ne consentir dorénavant à aucune cession de territoire, ni à aucun emprunt territorial que ce soit, sans s'être préalablement concerté avec les trois Gouvernements amis.

Les Soussignés prient votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur transmettre dans le plus bref délai possible la réponse de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, afin qu'ils puissent en référer à leurs Gouvernements.

Fait

(Signé)

DIOSDADO Y CASTELLO.  
W. KIRBY GREEN.  
ET SOUVERAIN.

*Le 12 Mars, 1887 (16 Djumadi II, 1304).*

No. 106.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)*

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, March 18, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship's attention an extract from a Spanish newspaper, containing a report and interpolation which was made in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies on the 11th instant, together with the Minister of State's reply thereto, respecting French intrigues in Morocco.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 100.

*Extract from "El Imparcial" of March 15, 1887.**Sitting of Congress, March 15, 1887.*

(Translation.)

General Lopez Dominguez, referring to a question he had asked some time ago of the Conde de Toreno regarding the affairs of Morocco, stated that since then, and notwithstanding the explanation given by the Minister of State, the press continued taking deep interest in these important questions. He stated that the French Minister, M. Féraud, and the German Minister, have been summoned by their respective Governments, and that the appointment of a Governor at Uchjda, on the Algerian frontier, is considered as a triumph of French politics.

He referred to the intrigues of these nations in Morocco with the object of gaining certain advantages, and wished to know if the Government had any knowledge of this, and if they were informed of the intention of the British Government to construct barracks in the vicinity of Tetuan.



It is considered that if France is extending her frontiers towards the River Muluga, and that if Germany is developing her trade in that country, Spain must abandon whatever hopes she may have in Africa.

The Minister of State, fully acknowledging the importance of this question, stated that the Government is well informed of what is taking place in that country, and that the prestige and influence of Spain in Africa will be duly watched by them. It is to be considered, he adds, that the frontiers of Morocco are not like ours, and that they are formed by an imaginary line almost undetermined, which runs from the Atlantic towards the desert. He has, he says, the same information as General Lopez Dominguez with regard to the appointment of the Governor of Oudah, and of the construction of a fort in the frontier between Algiers and Morocco.

Any question relating to Morocco is of importance to Spain, and I may state, he adds, before Parliament that every European nation has admitted this fact, and that this Government will act in accordance with the traditions and history of Spain.

General Lopez Dominguez rectified and referred to the cable laid between Gibraltar and Tangiers, and

The Minister of State replied that the Government of Morocco protested against this, but had to accept what was an accomplished fact.

The Marquis de la Vega Armijo is satisfied with the explanations given by Señor Moret, and explained what took place with regard to the Tangier cable, stating that the nation which first proposed to do this was Spain, but that she did not do so in conformity with the *status quo* policy followed respecting Morocco, and which she did not wish to annul, or to accept the consequences which would result from laying that cable. But the *status quo* policy, he added, has its limits, and in this I agree with General Lopez Dominguez. These limits are the initiative of other nations.

General Lopez Dominguez rectified again, and stated that the initiative of Deputies is extremely beneficial in international questions, as it aids the action of the Government.

## No. 167

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 42. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 39, Confidential, of the 10th instant, in regard to the objections entertained by Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, to the substitution of the words "hons offices" for "appui," which Her Majesty's Government were desirous of effecting in the note that is to be addressed to the Moorish Government by the Representatives at Tangier of Great Britain, Spain, and Italy.

I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you used in his Excellency, as reported in your despatch, and which resulted in his acceptance of the proposed alteration.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 168.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 44. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 33, Confidential, of the 1st instant, reporting what had passed at your interview on that day with Señor Moret, the Spanish Secretary of State, in regard to reforms and administrative improvement in Morocco.

In conveying to you my approval of your language, as reported in your despatch, I have at the same time to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at Señor Moret's assurances that they could confidently rely on the co-operation of the Spanish Government in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 169.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 196. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 21, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 27, Confidential, of February 23, 1887: ante, No. 114.]

## No. 170.

*Sir J. Parncefote to Sir R. Playfair.*

(No. 8.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 22, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 14th November, 1885, and to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying translation of a letter from M. Giuseppe Pace in regard to his claim on account of the murder of his son at Sfax.†

M. Pace has been directed to apply to you, and has been informed that his letter has been referred to you.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

## No. 171.

*Sir J. Parncefote to M. Pace.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 22, 1887.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th February in regard to your claim on account of the murder of your son at Sfax, and I am to state that you should make your application to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, to whom your present letter has been referred.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

## No. 172.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 158. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; No. 39, Confidential, of March 10; Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 6, and No. 30 to ditto, dated March 14, 1887: ante, Nos. 133, 134, 137, 147, 149, 151, and 157.]

## No. 173.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. B. Lumley.‡*

(No. 98. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, March 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; No. 39, Confidential, of March 10; Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 6; No. 36, Most Confidential, of March 6; and No. 30 to ditto, dated March 14, 1887: ante, Nos. 133, 134, 137, 147, 148, 149, 151, and 157.]

\* Also to Sir J. B. Lumley (No. 92, Confidential), Sir E. Malet (No. 141, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 44, Confidential).  
† No. 106 A.  
‡ Also to Viscount Lyons (No. 203).  
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No. 174.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 47. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's Nos. 32 and 35, Confidential, of March 2 and 8; No. 36, Most Confidential, of March 6; and No. 30 to ditto, dated March 14, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 137, 147, 148, and 157.]

No. 175.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 37. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 25, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 32 and 33, Confidential, of March 1; No. 38 of March 9; and No. 39, Confidential, of March 10, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 133, 134, 149, and 151.]

No. 176.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)*

(No. 40.)  
My Lord, *Tangier, March 17, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the French Minister, M. Féraud, returned here to-day from Paris, and that the Shoreef of Wazan is on his way to the French capital.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 177.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)*

(No. 41.)  
My Lord, *Tangier, March 18, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the United States' corvette "Quinnebaug" arrived here yesterday, and, after saluting the Moorish flag and some of the local authorities who visited the vessel, left in the afternoon bound for Barcelona.

The visit of the "Quinnebaug," I understand, is connected with the installation of the new United States' Consul, Mr. Reed Lewis, who has, within the last few days, superseded Colonel Matthows, the irregularity of whose proceedings in this country had lately become somewhat notorious.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 178.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 210.) *Foreign Office, March 30, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 3 of February 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 106 a.]

\* Also to Sir J. B. Lumley (No. 102) and Sir E. Malet (No. 163).

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No. 179.

*Sir J. Parncefote to Mr. Macgregor.*

*Foreign Office, March 30, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 3 of February 21, 1887: *ante*, No. 106 a.]

No. 180.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 222. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 37, Confidential, of March 12; and of Sir Clare Ford's No. 43 of March 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 165 and 166.]

No. 181.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 48. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 37, Confidential, of March 12, 1887: *ante*, No. 165.]

No. 182.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 43 of March 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 166.]

No. 183.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)*

(No. 121. Confidential.)  
My Lord, *Berlin, March 31, 1887.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 10 of the 19th ultimo, and to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 36 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a notice appeared in the German Official Gazette of the 28th instant, stating that Herr Testa, Minister Resident in Tangier, has been recalled and permitted to retire from the service.

I have no sort of doubt that his recall is entirely independent of political considerations. I used to know Herr Testa when he was First Dragoman at Constantinople, and I was consequently able to speak to Count Bismarck with interest regarding him; and his Excellency told me the manner in which he had neglected his work was quite unaccountable, but that it left no alternative but his recall, and that, on arriving at Berlin, Herr Testa had acknowledged the justice of the decision which had been arrived at to recall him, and to allow him to retire from the service.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET

\* Also to Mr. Kennedy (No. 107, Confidential) and Sir E. Malet (No. 175, Confidential).

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)*

(No. 44. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 27, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 40 of the 17th instant, that the Shereef of Wazan returned here from Paris the day before yesterday. He travelled through Spain, and was, I understand, treated by the authorities with whom he came in contact in that country with considerable distinction.

The Shereef, as well as several members of his suite, when they landed at Tangier, were dressed in French military uniforms.

My Spanish colleague, Señor Diosdado, informs me that he has had the advantage within the last few days of conversing more than once with M. Féraud, not only on the subject of the Shereef's visit to Paris, but also on the object of the French Minister's own recent journey to France.

Señor Diosdado has gathered that M. Féraud, when he proceeded to give an account to the French Government of his late intercourse with the Sultan, was under the impression that he had failed to meet with the approbation of his superiors, and that consequently he would not be allowed to return to Morocco.

M. Féraud asserts that his policy in this country is opposed to that of an influential "party of action," headed by M. Etienne, Deputy for the Algerian Department of Oran, Count Chavagnac, the chief exponent in this country of M. Ordega's views, and the Shereef of Wazan. This party, it appears, though M. Féraud does not exactly admit it, is supported by M. Ferry. It wants France to assume at once the Protectorate of Morocco in the same manner as it has been carried out in Tunis, and to reward the Shereef of Wazan for his co-operation by making him nominal Ruler of the country.

The party in question maintains that it is a patriotic duty to divert the energy of France from dangerous thoughts of a war of revenge, and to allay at the same time the fears of Germany of such a war, and that this can be best accomplished by opening up Morocco to military and industrial enterprise.

The French Minister wishes it to be believed that he is of an exactly contrary opinion. He says he considers the Shereef of Wazan's influence in Morocco as non-existent, the industrial and commercial advantages held out by the country as most problematical, whilst the danger of involving France in difficulties with more than one European Government would be inevitable. It was in this sense, M. Féraud declares, that he spoke to M. Flourens. He explained to him that if he was not to be allowed to show the Sultan that France does not protect the whole of the Shereef's adherents in Morocco, but simply the Shereef and his family, and that she, France, wishes to go hand in hand with other foreign Governments for the due maintenance of the territorial integrity and independence of Morocco, he was prepared to give up the task of being the exponent of French policy to Mulai Hassan.

That language of this kind has been held with considerable efficacy to the Sultan by my French colleague is certain. That it should have been necessary for him to hold it to M. Flourens in order to prevent his recall is somewhat doubtful. Note need merely be taken, I think, of these statements, lest some day one of "the party of action," as M. Féraud terms his alleged opponents, should be sent to replace him in this country. Such an event would then have to be accepted as an official avowal that the *status quo* in Morocco is to be overthrown.

Señor Diosdado is disposed to so far consider M. Féraud's explanations as to credit the existence of opponents to his policy under the guidance of M. Ferry, M. Etienne, the Shereef, and others. He also thinks that the French Minister has gained such mastery over the Sultan that he might succeed in course of time in inducing His Shereefian Majesty to spontaneously solicit the protection of France, and that the French Government has been momentarily persuaded to give its Representative a free hand for pushing forward his aims.

But whether M. Féraud's and Señor Diosdado's conversations together afford or not a correct insight into the way in which French ends are to be attained is, I venture to think, immaterial.

There can be no doubt that France is seeking to establish her preponderance in this country, and that M. Féraud believes he can manage it by gentle means, that is, by gaining the confidence of the Sultan and allaying the suspicions of the foreign Representatives. If the French Minister's present course is found wanting, it will probably become quickly apparent that he and the French Government had never really

broken from the "party of action," and that M. Féraud's and the Shereef's simultaneous summons to Paris was solely for the better blending of their separate influences in favour of a common end.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 185.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 238.)

*Foreign Office, April 13, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 41 of March 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 177.]

No. 186.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†*

(No. 239.)

*Foreign Office, April 13, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 40 of March 17, 1887: *ante*, No. 170.]

No. 187.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 21.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, April 19, 1887.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Commander Kingscote, of Her Majesty's ship "Curlew," dated the 12th instant, reporting his having embarked Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and suite, and conveying them to Mazagan.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 187.

*Commander Kingscote to Captain St. John.*

Sir,

*"Curlew," at Gibraltar, April 12, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to Secret Orders received from Vice-Admiral Sir William Hewett, Commanding the Channel Squadron, I left Lisbon on the 1st April and proceeded to Tangier at economical speed, arriving there on the morning of the 3rd April. Finding the "Grappler" there with the Senior Officer's flag flying, I waited on you, communicating my orders, as directed to do so. On the morning of the 4th April, you having left Tangier, I visited the Minister, and arranged with him for the embarkation of himself and his suite when the weather permitted. On Tuesday the 5th I proceeded to Gibraltar to embark an artillery officer, and also a medical officer, two ponies, presents for the Emperor of Morocco, and some stores.

On account of bad weather and telegrams from the Minister at Tangier, I did not leave this place until Friday afternoon, the 8th, arriving and anchoring off Tangier in the evening. I at once landed to call on the Minister, and made the final arrangements for his embarkation the next morning. On the morning of Saturday the 9th I embarked about 30 tons of stores, and at noon the Minister came on board attended by a large suite—five ladies and twenty-four soldiers and servants. At the request of the Minister I saluted the Moorish flag with twenty-one guns on arrival at Tangier and also on leaving; as the fort saluted the Minister on embarking with seventeen guns, I did the same. At 12-30 I weighed, and proceeded out of Tangier Bay, and after rounding Cape Spartel shaped course for Mazagan, steaming 140 revolutions. Fortunately, the

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 119), Sir E. Malet (No. 190), Sir A. Paget (No. 71), Sir Clara Ford (No. 54), Mr. Petre (No. 15), Mr. Corbett (No. 15), Lord Arundel (No. 62), and Sir L. West (No. 69).

† Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 118), Sir E. Malet (No. 192), and Sir Clara Ford (No. 55).

weather was fine during the passage, except one heavy rain shower, and we arrived and anchored off Mazagan about 10.30 A.M. on the morning of the 10th April. I at once saluted the Moorish flag with twenty-one guns, which was returned immediately, and I also saluted the Minister on landing with the same number of guns as I had done at Tangier.

The Minister is not entitled to seventeen guns, but as the Moorish fort at Tangier had saluted him with that number, I considered it best to do the same at both places. During the whole of the afternoon of the 10th we were employed discharging the suite, baggage, and stores, and at 5 I weighed and proceeded out of the bay.

Everything was done that could have been done for the comfort of the Minister, the ladies, and the large suite attending them, but the accommodation of this ship is very limited.

At 6.20 P.M. on the 10th I shaped course for Sparte, having been ordered by Admiralty telegram through yourself to return to Gibraltar to await the arrival of the Channel squadron to which I belong, having completed the service for which I was detached.

I arrived at Gibraltar at 6.15 A.M. of this day.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ANTHONY KINGSCOTE, *Commander.*

## No. 188.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.*

(No. 126. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 121, Confidential, of March 31, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 183.*]

## No. 189.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.*

(No. 120A. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 184.*]

## No. 190.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 256. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 121, Confidential, of March 31, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 183.*]

## No. 191.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†*

(No. 257. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 184.*]

\* Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 55, Confidential). † Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 56, Confidential).

## No. 192.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.*

(No. 205. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 44, Confidential, of March 27, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 184.*]

## No. 193.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 43. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 121, Confidential, of March 31, 1887 :  
*ante, No. 183.*]

## No. 194.

*Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day received a letter from Hadj Mohammed Torres,\* informing me that he is on the point of proceeding to the Court at Morocco, and that the Amin (Administrator of Customs), Hadj Mohammed-el-Ghassal, will act for him until his return.

The departure of Hadj Mohammed Torres appears to have been decided upon very suddenly, as no suspicion of it was entertained until the announcement was made this morning.

His Excellency has chartered a British steamer to convey him to Mazagan, and he leaves Tangier this evening. The cause of his departure is not known.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

## No. 195.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†*

(No. 266. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 30, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 30 of February 24, 1887 : *ante, No. 124.*]

## No. 196.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.‡*

(No. 282.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. White's despatch of April 30, 1887 : *ante, No. 194.*]

\* Minister for Foreign Affairs (see Mr. White's No. 60, September 22, 1886).  
† Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 184, Confidential), Mr. Scott (No. 216, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 60, Confidential).  
‡ Also to Mr. Kennedy (No. 149), Mr. Scott (No. 229), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 62).

*Sir R. L. Playfair to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)*

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose cutting from a newspaper relative to the works going on at Bizerta, in order to make the lake a shelter for torpedo-boats.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 197.

*Newspaper Extract.*

**LE PORT DE BIZERTE.**—Les travaux d'amélioration du port de Bizerte continuent, en vue de créer un refuge pour les torpilleurs. On drague la passe actuelle, on démolit une partie du pont du Bab-Tounis sur le canal. La partie démolie du pont sera provisoirement remplacée par une passerelle en charpente mobile pouvant se soulever lors des passages des torpilleurs; ceux-ci pourront ainsi pénétrer dans le lac de Bizerte où ils seront complètement à l'abri de toute inquiétude.

Deux dragues et plusieurs chalands sont en fonction; les travaux sont poussés avec activité sous la direction des officiers de marine du "Destrées" et de l'ingénieur du service maritime de la Régence.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

*Mazagan, April 11, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I and all the members composing my Mission embarked at noon at Tangier the day before yesterday on board Her Majesty's ship "Curlew," under the customary salutes both from the Moorish batteries and the British vessel, and with all the other usual formalities.

We reached this place yesterday morning, and landed in accordance with past precedents. I was received by the local and other authorities of Mazagan with every distinction, and have found that all needful preparation has been made, under the Sultan's orders, for my conveyance with ease and dispatch to the Moorish Court at the City of Morocco.

I purpose commencing my journey this morning, as I understand that the Sultan is anxious to move at an early date towards the northern portion of his dominions, in the direction of Rabat and Fez, where several powerful tribes have shown signs of insubordination.

If I am not departing from the rules observed on such occasions, I should deem it a favour if your Lordship would consent to have it made known in the proper quarter that I feel most grateful to Commander Kingscote and the other officers of Her Majesty's ship "Curlew" for the courteous way in which they accepted the inconvenience of having to receive in their private cabins so large a party, when it was found that the vessel's accommodation was most limited.

The official members forming my Mission are, besides myself, the following:—

Mr. Herbert White, Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier;  
Surgeon-Major Charlesworth;  
Lieutenant Boulton, R.A.;  
Mr. De Vosnes de Ponthieu, Consular Assistant;  
Mr. John Kirby Green, Private Secretary;  
Mr. Haim Sicsu, Interpreter;  
Two Arabic scribes;  
Fourteen guards and servants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 52.)

My Lord,

*Morocco, April 18, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I this morning entered this city, being conducted from its outskirts with all the customary honours and display, to the Palace of the Maimouniah, the residence usually selected for the reception of foreign guests of the Sultan.

I was met outside the city by the Governor of Morocco, representatives of all the different offices of the Sherrefian household, large bodies of irregular cavalry, the Guilds of the town, &c., and about 10,000 regular troops under the command of Kaïd MacLean, formerly Captain in Her Majesty's 60th Regiment, lined both sides of the road leading up to the Maimouniah Palace.

Shortly after my arrival Cid Emfadi Gharnet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on me to welcome me in the Sultan's name. Later in the day the Acting Grand Vizier (the Grand Vizier, Cid Alarby Mukhtar, is lying on his death-bed from acute paralysis) also called to repeat to me His Sherrefian Majesty's good wishes on my arrival. In fact, nothing has been left undone by the Moorish Government to mark its respect for the new Representative of the Queen, and its desire to publicly proclaim the continuance of the friendship which has existed for so long a period between Great Britain and Morocco.

During my eight days' journey from Mazagan to Morocco the Mission was constantly under the escort of the Governors whose districts it had to pass through. These functionaries were accompanied by large bodies of cavalry and footmen thoroughly representative of the half feudal, half Oriental, institutions which still distinguish the military organization of this country, an organization infinitely more picturesque and interesting than efficient.

I am assured on all sides, and by Mr. Herbert White, who has had a large experience of Missions to the Moorish Court, that the display made by the provincial Governors in the present instance has surpassed much that attempted on all former similar occasions. This has arisen, I have reason to believe, from a wish on the part of the Sultan to give me an exalted impression of his strength, as well as from his anxiety to mark the importance which he attaches to the presence of a Queen's Representative in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 53.)

My Lord,

*Morocco, April 20, 1887.*

HAVING immediately after my arrival here intimated through the proper channels my wish to present my letters of credence to the Sultan, and having been informed that every preparation for their reception had been completed, I proceeded this morning at 8 o'clock, accompanied by all the members of my Mission in full uniform, and escorted by a Moorish guard of honour, to the large quadrangle which adjoins Mulai Hassan's Palace, and where His Sherrefian Majesty holds his, so to say, throne-room receptions. The throne of the Emperor of Morocco has been from ancient times a war-charger, and receptions of importance have always been held in the presence of the Sherrefian army.

The presents which had been destined as a customary offering to His Sherrefian Majesty from me had already preceded me, and were ranged in the square, which I found completely lined with regular troops, again under the command of Kaïd MacLean. All the high functionaries of the State and Palace were also drawn up in separate lines across the square, in accordance with their respective ranks, and I was led by the Lord High Chamberlain to the centre, where we all dismounted from our horses. Shortly after taking up the proper position, the Sultan issued from an archway at the far left corner of the square. His Sherrefian Majesty was mounted on a white charger, caparisoned in green silk and gold. A scarlet velvet sun-shade, mounted on a long pole, was held high above the Sultan's head. His Majesty was



surrounded by his fanners, fly-whisk carriers, executioners, gun and lance bearers, and innumerable other personal attendants. Six saddled chargers, each of a different colour, all caparisoned in green silk and gold, one apparently more fiery than the other, all pranced in advance of the Sultan. A long line of Court Chamberlains intercepted the Mission from the approaching Imperial cortège. These officials suddenly simultaneously bending in a low bow shouted, "May God prolong the life of our Lord;" and on receiving the Imperial herald's reply, "Our Lord says may God assist you," as suddenly turned round, and in well-simulated fright scattered themselves as fast as they could run in all directions. The cortège continued its slow progress towards where the Mission stood. When the Sultan was about 10 yards off he stopped; I then advanced, and taking off my hat made a low bow.

His Majesty hereupon wished me welcome to his Court, and expressed the hope that I had performed the journey from the coast without discomfort.

I replied to the following effect:—

"May it please your Shereefan Presence, I have been charged by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and the Empress of India to deliver to your Shereefan Majesty a letter [I here handed to the Sultan my credentials] by which the Queen informs your Lordship that I have been selected to succeed Sir John Drummond Hay as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to your Shereefan Presence. Your Lordship will observe by that letter that the Queen is desirous that the ancient friendship which has happily existed for so long between the two countries should be strengthened and increased. It will be my duty to use every effort to so increase and strengthen it, and therefore to follow in the steps of my predecessor, who, for close upon half a century, was ever able to prove to the Sultans of Morocco, your predecessors, and to your Shereefan Presence that Morocco has no truer friends than the English.

"In conclusion, I ask your Shereefan Presence's permission to state that from the first moment of my landing at Tangier, from my arrival at Mazagan, from my passage through the Provinces of Dukala, Rhamna, and other districts, the manner in which your Shereefan Majesty's subjects and authorities have received me has afforded me valid proofs of the value attached by your Lordship to the maintenance of the existing friendship between England and Morocco."

Mulai Hassan answered in the following terms:—

"You have judged rightly of our friendship. It is very precious to us. You are welcome. You are all welcome."

The Sultan then made a sign to me to introduce to him the members of my Mission, which I accordingly did. His Majesty availed himself of each separate introduction to make some gracious remark.

He then pointed to the Shetland ponies which I had brought with me. I explained that having learnt that he had a favourite son of about 8 years of age I had thought the ponies would afford the child pleasure, and I trusted their size would in no way be considered as a measure of the friendship that was to grow between us.

The Sultan, after some further pleasant observations, repeated his expressions of welcome, and then returned to his Palace.

I must here record that by previous arrangement, owing to the heat of the sun, I merely remained uncovered in the Sultan's presence for a few moments. This was in accordance with the course followed by my predecessor on similar occasions.

From those who have witnessed many official receptions of foreign Representatives by the Sultan, I am assured that on the present occasion His Majesty has gone out of his way to mark the cordiality of his reception by conversing with me, instead of merely uttering a few words in an inaudible manner, which the Court Herald would have had to interpret in the way that he might imagine the occasion required. In the present instance his functionary was not called upon to use his powerful voice, except when he shouted, "Our Lord wishes you welcome," each time the members of my Mission's train stepped back after my introduction of them to the Sultan.

In accordance with His Majesty's wishes I, later in the day, proceeded to the Palace, accompanied by my Staff, and explained to him the nature and use of the different presents which I had delivered to him in the morning.

The Sultan did not endeavour to disguise the pleasure which all these presents afforded him, and again expressed his thanks to me.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 201.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)*

(No. 54. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 25, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday, during a private audience granted me by the Sultan, I inquired of His Shereefan Majesty whether he had taken under his consideration the collective note addressed on the 12th ultimo by my Spanish and Italian colleagues and myself, in accordance with instructions from our respective Governments, to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Sultan replied that he was disposed to attach considerable value to the note, but that, as it was incumbent on him in all important matters to submit them, before final decision, to the examination of trusted counsellors, he had sent the note to Fez, where one of his most experienced advisers resides. The Sultan promised that, as soon as he had received this counsellor's advice, he would give orders for a reply to be furnished to me and my before-mentioned colleagues.

I will not, however, hide from your Lordship that the impression left upon me by the manner in which the Sultan spoke of the steps taken through the note was that His Majesty distrusts its possible effects, if not its real object. I fear the Sultan's uneducated mind is not very capable of taking a broad view of the political position or exigencies of his country. His Mussulman standing as a spiritual magistrate shuts him out of attempting willingly to approach one Christian Power or friend more than another, and the only outside influence to which he is really subject is that of fear. He fears his powerful Kaidas and tribes as much as he does foreign Governments. Of these latter he fears most the French and Spanish, for they have given him more frequent proofs of their power to injure him.

In this matter of the collective note I should not be surprised to learn that the asserted trusted counsellor at Fez is, in fact, M. Féraud, the French Minister at Tangier, and if the latter should recommend the note to be rejected, I have no doubt the Sultan will go on adding at it with the pretence of final acceptance until actual events throw it out of count.

Under this conviction, I felt it right to say to the Sultan that the three Governments who had advised the safeguard together were quite capable of taking care of their respective interests alone and separately, and that, if the Sultan thought he was in a similar position, he might follow their example. But if only vague distrust of something to be done in secret was weighing on His Majesty's mind, I was sure there could be no objection to his publicly adhering to the terms of the note.

The note was intended to be a check on those who have covetous intentions on Morocco, and it would be all the more efficacious when its existence was generally known.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 202

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 46. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 12, 1887.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 10th February last, in regard to the refusal of the Sultan to make any commercial concessions until the terms of the Madrid Convention of 1880 respecting the protection of Moorish subjects are observed.

I am not at present prepared to accede to your suggestion, that you should be authorized to ascertain the extent of the commercial advantages which the Sultan would be disposed to concede to Great Britain, if Her Majesty's Government consented to discontinue the exercise of the right of protection of natives secured to them by the Convention. I consider that it would be advisable before taking such a step to ascertain from the Governments of Spain, Italy, and Germany their views as to the expediency of representing to all the Powers who are parties to the Convention, that the failure to observe its provisions is a serious impediment to the improvement of commercial relations.

with the Sultan, thereby retarding the progress of civilization in Morocco, besides being indefensible in principle; and to invite them to consider in what respect the provisions of the Convention are objectionable in practice, and if so, what modification of them might fairly be proposed, on the understanding that any new arrangements should be scrupulously observed.

I shall be glad to have your opinion, and you might sound your colleagues of Spain, Italy, and Germany on the point, should you think it desirable.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 203.

*The Anglo-Jewish Association to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)*

My Lord,

London, May 11, 1887.

AT the request of the Jewish Board of Deputies and of the Anglo-Jewish Association, we beg permission to bring under your Lordship's notice events now passing in Morocco which are causing just alarm to the entire Jewish community in that country.

From information we have received from a member of the Anglo-Jewish Association now in Tangier, and other reliable sources, it would appear that on the 6th April one Reuben Tourgeman, a trader of Alcazar, was summoned to attend before the Governor of that town, and on his arrival there was immediately arrested and thrown into prison. He was unable to learn the ground of his arrest. On the following day irons were placed on his feet, and on the 8th he was mounted (being still in chains) and sent, under military escort, to Tangier, through Arzila, a most circuitous route. It is stated that two Englishmen, Messrs. Varley and Smith, accompanied the party to the suburbs of Tangier, and gave orders to the military guard throughout the journey. On arrival at Tangier, Tourgeman was taken before the Foreign Minister, Hadj Mohamed Torres, who immediately released him.

The circumstances of this outrage naturally caused much excitement at Tangier, and on the 12th April a deputation, comprising all the most influential Jews of the town, waited upon Mr. White, then acting for Mr. Kirby Green, Her Britannic Majesty's Representative at Tangier, to solicit his good offices. We have most gratefully to acknowledge that Mr. White afforded the most kind and prompt assistance, and made a searching investigation into the circumstances of the outrage. It is alleged that the Governor of Alcazar has given the following explanation of his conduct: That Tourgeman being plaintiff in an action pending at Tangier, the Foreign Minister himself had directed the Governor of Alcazar to cause Tourgeman to appear at Tangier to substantiate his claim, that Tourgeman set the order of the Foreign Minister at defiance, and that force had thus become necessary. Tourgeman, however, solemnly denies having disobeyed the order of the Governor, of which he was totally ignorant. He states that he was simply told by two soldiers that he was wanted at the Governor's Palace, and that on arriving there he was carried off to prison. Tourgeman is described to us as a respectable trader, not a money-lender, as alleged in a letter on the subject published in the "Times" newspaper, and his version of the affair is supported by the statement on oath of himself and of his cousin Judah Afalo, sworn before a notary public.

This painful occurrence is still the subject of official inquiry at Tangier, and it is important, in the cause of justice and humanity, to know (1) on what ground Tourgeman was arrested, imprisoned, cast in irons, and deported to Tangier, (2) at whose instance and by whose orders he was subjected to this cruel treatment, and (3) whether the order given authorized his being imprisoned and chained.

On the 3rd instant we received a telegram from a member of the Anglo-Jewish Association who happens to be in Tangier, of which the following is a copy:—

"Tangier, May 2, 1887.

"Fresh outrages Alcazar. Moorish functionary subjected Jewish shoemaker 300 lashes bare soles feet, 300 more painful hands, afterwards lodged victim underground dungeon heavily shackled. No crime against victim. Community implores your energetic action prevent further outrages. Suggest your petitioning Foreign Office telegraph Green instructions avail presence Court make proper representations Alcazar outrages, insisting punishment guilty, reparation victims. Strict adherence

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Shereefian Edicts formerly given Jews. Should Foreign Office hesitate, pray Sir Julian telegraph Green through Cohen, present opportunity Embassy invaluable, delay involved further outrages through impunity offenders.—PICK.

Under the above circumstances, we earnestly hope that the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, so beneficently exercised through its Representative at Tangier, may be continued for the protection of the Jewish community.

We trust that the inquiries now pending may result in the award of adequate compensation to Tourgeman for the outrage of which he has been the victim, and that strong measures may be adopted to prevent further outrage, and to calm the mind of the Jewish community, which has been so seriously alarmed by the incidents of the last few weeks.

Commending this matter to your Lordship's humane and favourable consideration, we have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN GOLDSMID, *President of the Anglo-Jewish Association.*  
ARTHUR COHEN, *President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*

No. 204.

*Foreign Office to Messrs. Tweedie.*

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th March relative to the case of General Hamid Benayad, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury, to acquaint you that a further despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers upon the subject.

In that despatch Sir R. L. Playfair reports that proposals for a settlement were made by both parties, but that the only arrangement which the Government of Tunis would consent to accept was a payment by General Benayad by easy instalments of 300,000 piastres (7,500*l.*), in full satisfaction of all claims on both sides. Deducting this sum from the arbitration award, there remains 888,426 piastres (22,035*l.*), representing compensation to the General for arbitrary acts unconnected with the arbitration. General Ben Ayad, however, refuses to accept these terms, and all negotiations have been broken off.

I am to remind you that the intervention of Her Majesty's Government was exercised to obtain justice for acts outside the arbitration which all parties were pledged to accept as final.

Sir R. Playfair concludes by expressing the opinion in which his Lordship concurs, that the diplomatic intervention of Her Majesty's Government has been strained to its utmost limits, and that they can hardly make any further representation in the matter to the French Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 205.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 17, 1887.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter from the Jewish Board of Deputies and Anglo-Jewish Association, requesting the good offices of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of one Reuben Tourgeman, a trader of Alcazar, who it would seem has been wrongfully arrested and imprisoned.

I have accordingly to request you to furnish me with a Report on this case, as well as on the other case to which Sir J. Goldamid and Mr. Cohen allude.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

• No. 203.

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No. 206.

*Foreign Office to Anglo-Jewish Association.*

Gentlemen,

*Foreign Office, May 17, 1887.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting the good offices of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of one Reuben Tourgeman, a trader of Alcazar, who it would appear has been wrongfully arrested and imprisoned in that town; and I am to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier has been instructed to furnish his Lordship with a Report on this case, as well as on the other case mentioned in your letter.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 207.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 18, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No 54, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had, during a private audience granted to you by the Sultan of Morocco, upon the subject of the collective note addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 12th ultimo, by your Spanish and Italian colleagues and yourself, in regard to the maintenance of the integrity of His Shereefian Majesty's dominions.

I have now to convey to you my approval of the language used by you on the occasion.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 208.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)*

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, May 16, 1887.*

I LEARN from a private and trustworthy source that a French Company has sent engineers to Bizerta to estimate the expense required for opening a ship channel between the sea and the lake, to the east of the present narrow entrance.

For two or three months past the French Admiralty has employed about sixty men in deepening the present entrance and in making a breakwater at its mouth. It will soon be seen whether the more extensive project is really to be carried out.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 209.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.\**

(No. 241. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, May 23, 1887.*

[Transmits Mr. Kirby Green's No. 6, Commercial, of February 10; and No. 46, Confidential, to ditto, of May 12, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 89\* and 202.]

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 159, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 71, Confidential).

No. 210.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.*

(No. 160.)

*Foreign Office, May 23, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 10 of May 6, 1887: *ante*, No. 197.]

No. 211.

*Foreign Office to Consul-General Playfair.*

(No. 4.)

*Foreign Office, May 23, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Messrs. Tweedie's letter of March 18; and to ditto, dated May 16, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 164 and 204.]

No. 212.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.**Foreign Office, May 23, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 10 of May 6, 1887: *ante*, No. 197.]

No. 213.

*Verbal Communication by Baron Plessen, May 25, 1887.*

(Translation.)

DURING the negotiations carried on with Morocco by Germany in conjunction with England and France for the purpose of concluding a Commercial Treaty, the Moorish negotiators at Tangier promised to lay before the Sultan, without, however, accepting it, the draft of a Treaty which had been discussed with the Foreign Minister. The Sultan, in a document addressed to the French Minister, M. Féraud, refused to consent to any extension of commercial relations between his country and Europe, so long as the provisions of the Madrid Convention of the 3rd July, 1880, on the subject of protection and the old Conventions therein confirmed should remain in force.

From his point of view the Sultan is not wrong. Under the above-mentioned provisions, foreign merchants are able to appoint natives as their agents in any place where they establish branches, and such agents are thereby withdrawn from Moorish jurisdiction and taxation. Thus a large number of well-to-do Moors have been removed from the Sultan's power by an improper application and extension of the clauses in question.

The Imperial Government is inclined to meet the Sultan's wishes in the matter, and considers this the best way to induce the Sultan to grant concessions in regard to commercial relations.

The Reports received from the Imperial Representatives at Madrid and Rome show that the Spanish and Italian Governments fully agree that it would be for the general interest that these abuses should be stopped. Both Governments have expressed their willingness to consent to a modification of the Madrid Convention, and of the old Agreements therein confirmed, in such a manner as to put an end to the abuse of protection, in the event of their being asked officially so to do by the Moorish Government. Señor Moret, especially, has stated that if Morocco were to make such a proposal, the Spanish Government would be prepared to issue invitations to a second Conference.

In these circumstances the Imperial Government would be inclined to instruct the Imperial Representative at Tangier to propose to the Sultan the reopening of the negotiations for a Commercial Treaty, and at the same time to express their readiness to meet the Sultan's wishes as regards an alteration of the Madrid Convention, provided the other Powers most interested in Morocco signify their concurrence in this course.

Before taking further steps in the matter, the Imperial Government would be glad to learn the view taken by the British Government respecting the wishes of the Sultan regarding the question of protection, and to know if they would be willing to agree to a modification of the Madrid Convention, and of the old Regulations therein confirmed.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)*

(No. 55.)

My Lord,

Morocco, May 7, 1887.

SHORTLY before my arrival in this city I learnt that a young Frenchman named Camille Douls had landed on the western coast somewhere between Cape Bojador and Rio d'Oro and had been made prisoner by the natives, who, it was asserted, were holding him to ransom.

M. Douls in 1885 had been at Mogador as the Secretary of a person who styled himself "Envoy from Araucania, Patagonia." Later, the same individual appeared in Paris as an Envoy from the tribes of Southern Morocco, seeking the assistance of France against the Sultan, and calling himself Hadj Abd el Kerim Bey.\*

Three days after I had reached this place, M. Camille Douls was brought to Morocco as one of the followers of Abeddin ebn Baïruch, Sheikh of Wad Noun, and brother of Dahman ebn Baïruch, the Chief whose name is well known in connection with the Cape Juby Settlement. Sheikh Abeddin had ostensibly come to pay homage to the Sultan, but probably had, under orders, specially conducted the young Frenchman to the Moorish Court.

M. Douls called on me on the day of his arrival and solicited my protection, explaining that he hoped I would not hold him responsible for the painful circumstances under which he had first appeared in the country, and when he was the victim of an adventurer.

He then said he had landed about the 20th January last from a Canary Islands' fishing-boat hired for the purpose at a spot on the African Coast about 40 miles below Cape Bojador. As soon as he gained the summit of the cliff at the foot of which he had disembarked, he hid most of his effects and proceeded inland. It was not long before he fell into the hands of three natives who at once stripped him and were proceeding to kill him when a fourth man, who was of a different tribe, luckily appeared on the scene. This man acted the part of a good Samaritan, delivered him out of the hands of the robbers, and made him a member of his family. M. Douls declared himself to be a Mahomedan of Ottoman race, bound on a mercantile venture, and to be named Abd-el-Kiamel. He for some time continued to be a bone of contention between the natives of different tribes, but under the protection of the good Samaritan he wandered from place to place in wastes which appear capable of supporting with difficulty a most sparse population. Ultimately he was conducted to Sheikh Abeddin, in the district of Wad Noun, and thus has found himself brought here.

During the last part of his journey to Morocco M. Douls noticed that the natives all appeared to have heard of him, and that none seemed to consider him anything but a Christian and a Frenchman who was being conveyed to the Sultan. M. Douls, however, was much astonished to learn from me that his captivity was known in France, and that his friends were endeavouring to obtain his release, for he had lost touch with the outer world the moment he had been landed under the cliff from the Canary Islands' fishing-boat. This is another instance of how rapidly news of untoward occurrences travel in wild and barbarous countries, without any apparent possibility of tracing the channels through which the reports have passed.

I regret to state that M. Douls' visit to me procured for him immediate imprisonment at the hands of Sheikh Abeddin. On hearing that he was under arrest and in irons I sent a message to Cid Emfadel Gharneet to warn him of the illegality of Sheikh Abeddin's proceedings, and advising the Sultan to have M. Douls at once conveyed to Mogador and handed over to the French Consul there. My intervention was so far heeded as to obtain the removal of the fetters, but it was only after a lapse of four days that M. Douls was allowed complete freedom. He came and warmly thanked me for the protection which I had been enabled to afford, and which he feels convinced has saved him from an untimely end, for he noticed that the Moors here were not at all friendly towards him as soon as they found that he was no longer a true believer.

M. Douls has now proceeded to Mogador under the protection of Mr. Ferguson, who is provided with trustworthy followers.

M. Douls also told me that his expedition was undertaken entirely for scientific purposes under the patronage of the Paris newspaper "République Française."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

\* See No. 55, December 19, 1885, and No. 23, May 10, 1886.

*Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)*

(No. 56. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Morocco, May 7, 1887.

YOUR Lordship is probably aware that shortly after the Moorish Government employed Captain MacLean to organize some of its levies into regular infantry, the French Government imposed upon it a certain number of officers, on the ground of helping it to improve its artillery force.

But these officers, instead of having, like Captain MacLean, retired from their own army, are still considered on active service, wear the French uniform, are under the direct control of the War Office in Paris, and entitle themselves as "Mission Militaire" attached to the French Legation in Morocco.

The Sultan has himself told me that he considers them as nothing but French military spies, and he asked me how I thought he could get rid of them. He had attempted to do so by refraining from paying them, but when M. Féraud was here during last autumn he had caused His Majesty to rectify the omission.

I necessarily was careful in my answer to the Sultan, and led him to see that perhaps he had better endure what he evidently could not very well prevent.

Your Lordship will thus observe that, though an opportunity was afforded me, I did not avail myself of it to throw difficulties in the way of the French officers. I feel, therefore, that your Lordship will acquit me of being influenced by any feeling of national or other jealousy when I state that Commandant de Breuille, Captain Schmitt, and Dr. Lenarez, who are the principal members of the French Military Commission here, have shown marked courtesy towards me as Her Majesty's Representative by abstaining from calling on me on my arrival at the Moorish Court.

Christians and foreigners are so few in number here and occupy so peculiar a position that anything that tends to leave the native mind with the impression that they and their respective Governments are not united and are at variance with each other is much to be deplored. The conduct of the above-named officers in abstaining from all intercourse with myself and my mission can have resulted in producing no other but that belief among the Sultan and his surroundings. They may have even wished to make His Majesty believe that they consider my appearance at his Court as an intrusion to be resented. M. Féraud's conduct last autumn towards Kaid MacLean and his brother, also a late officer in the English army, was in consonance with that of the French Military Commission. The MacLeans called on the French Envoy, but he abstained from having any intercourse with them.

It has always been a guiding principle with me to keep on the most friendly terms with all colleagues and foreigners, in order to prevent the Eastern peoples among whom I have been from making capital out of supposed national jealousies and rivalries; and, as I feel sure that my doing so will meet with your Lordship's approval, I trust your Lordship will not refuse to make it known in the proper quarter how much it is to be regretted that the conduct of the French Military Commission in Morocco has tended to give the Moors a very unfavourable view of the generosity and openness of the European character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 323. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, May 28, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 54, Confidential, of April 25; and No. 48, Confidential, to ditto, dated May 18, 1887: ante, Nos. 201 and 207.]

\* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 239, Confidential), Mr. Kennedy (No. 169, Confidential), and Sir C. Ford (No. 74, Confidential).



No. 217.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 49.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 31, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 55 of the 7th instant in regard to M. Camille Douls, a French citizen, and I have to convey to you my approval of the assistance which you afforded him, under the circumstances reported by you.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 218.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.*

(No. 50. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 2, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 56, Confidential, of the 7th instant, upon the subject of the French Military Mission in Morocco; and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to the Sultan in regard thereto, as reported in your despatch.

With respect to the discourtesy shown to you by the members of the Mission, you did quite right in reporting it. At the same time, I doubt the expediency of making a representation to the French Government in the matter, and do not propose, therefore, to take any action in that direction.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 219.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 334.)

*Foreign Office, June 4, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 55 of May 7; and to ditto, No. 49, of May 31, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 214 and 217.]

No. 220.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 335.)

*Foreign Office, June 4, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 4 of May 16, 1887: *ante*, No. 206.]

No. 221.

*Foreign Office to War Office.†**Foreign Office, June 4, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 4 of May 16, 1887: *ante*, No. 206.]

No. 222.

*Consul Payton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)*

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

*Mogador, May 28, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at this town on the 24th instant of Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Morocco, W. Kirby

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 177).

† Also to Admiralty.

Green, Esquire, C.M.G., with a large escort, returning from his Mission to the Court of His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Minister had a very imposing and cordial reception here from the Moorish authorities, and, after remaining a day and a-half in Mogador, took his departure on the morning of the 26th, by land, for Tangier.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 223.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)*

(No. 139.)

My Lord,

*Washington, May 30, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 69 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a Report of the proceedings of the United States' Consul at Tangiers connected with the abuses of protection permitted by his predecessor, which has appeared in the "New York Times."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 223.

*Extract from the "New York Times" of May 30, 1887.*

A DISGRACE WIPED OUT.—THE AMERICAN CONSULSHIP AT TANGIER PURGED.—The practice prevailing in Morocco of using the name and authority of the United States, and the privileges conferred upon American citizens by our Treaty arrangements with the Barbary Powers, for the purpose of extorting usury and inflicting cruel hardships upon debtors unable or unwilling to pay the exorbitant demands, has been described in the "Times." Money lenders, either acting as agents of *bona fide* American merchants (who, it is to be presumed, were entirely ignorant of the nefarious practices resorted to), or doing business on their own account, would obtain from the United States' Consul at Tangier commissions as protégés of the United States. These commissions would entitle them to arrest any debtor, or the relative of any debtor, against whom they lodged complaint that he was indebted to an American citizen, and to have him or her flogged or imprisoned in the foulest dungeons until either the extortionate demands were satisfied or death came to the relief of the wretched victim, as it often did.

The accuracy of these statements has been denied. Mr. William Reed Lewis, our present Consul at Tangier, transmits to the State Department authentic documents conclusively proving the truth of all that has been said in regard to these atrocities. These documents are not simply his own statements: they comprise Reports and letters in the original Arabic from the highest officials in the country, with accompanying translations.

When Consul Lewis was directed by the State Department to break up the system above indicated he selected for the purpose Mr. Cromwell C. Varley, an American resident familiar with Arabic, who voluntarily undertook the mission from philanthropic motives, without any compensation. Armed with orders from the Moorish Minister, supplementing the instructions of the United States, Mr. Varley proceeded to Alkassar and Larache to rescind the commissions of the American protégé money-lenders and to procure the release of the prisoners. He gives a list of the prisoners he found incarcerated, as furnished to him by the Governor of the province, as follows:—

*Translation of Communications concerning Prisoners on account of American Claims at Alkassar and Larache, in the District of Larache, from the Pasha of Larache.*

(Praise to God.)

Declaration of the names of the prisoners under the American debt, and amount against every one of them.

Ahmed Ben Alhadi Makrani. To Abraham Tergeman, against him for 440 dollars. After he was imprisoned we seized all his property and sold it, and we sent the money to Tangier (77 dollars), and he remains in prison; has nothing, as you can see by inclosed document.



Abdelam Ben Albohame-el-Makrani. To Abraham Tergeman, against him for 150 dollars. This man has been in prison two years; he never had a vestige of property. He always has begged alms in prison, as you can see by the inclosed document.

El Hasen Ben Mohamed-el-Afain. To Abraham Tergeman, against his father, 147 dollars. His land is worth 178 dollars, still it has not yet been sold, and he is only in prison till the land is sold to pay the debt.

Abdelah-el-Neggat. To Haim Abaninty, against him for 226 dollars. He is in prison since the life of the late Al Turkee, and we examined him if he had anything to be sold, and we found that he had nothing. He is remaining in prison only to die.

Mohamed-el-Makrasi and the woman Fatima, the daughter of Elhaslat-el-Nasab. To Abraham Tergeman for 20 dollars. The above mentioned had died in prison. God give him mercy! And it is found in what they left there is enough to pay the debt, and some of this property is sold. It realized 50 dollars, which I sent to you with the other money in the fifth note; and the other left property, not yet sold. After it is sold, it will realize the rest of the debt by the help of God. (The original debt, it will be noted, was only 20 dollars.)

And so the list runs on through fifteen or twenty more cases, affidavits in the original Arabic, with a translation, being appended to each case in support of the facts stated. The principal usurer, Tergeman, was arrested during Mr. Varley's visit and brought to Tangier, and despatches have been published in this country and in Europe stating that this was done by authority of the United States' Consul, but the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Tangier addressed to Consul Lewis a letter, which has been forwarded to the State Department, stating that the Moorish Government alone was responsible for the arrest.

Mr. Varley gives a graphic description of the scenes which accompanied the release of these unfortunate creatures. He writes:—

"I found the released prisoners on the grass in front of my tent. I asked one of them how long he had been in prison. Plucking a handful of grass and kissing it, he said: 'For three years I have not seen the grass or sky. Once more God has planted the earth with the good thing. We were in the grave. He has given us light again. We can see the beautiful flowers again. May the blessings of God and of the poor prisoner rest on the great nation that has sent the good Bashador to set us free!'

"I learned that when the prisoner was arrested his little child clung to him and would not leave him, but remained with him until the foul prison air made the child so ill that he had to be forced away from his father for a time. When I saw the child he was covered with marks and sores caused by the prison vermin. According to the prisoner's statement, he borrowed during the famine year 100 dollars and gave a written acknowledgment of a debt of 200 dollars, payable in a year's time, principal and interest. Of this he was only able to pay 150 dollars, and so he gave another acknowledgment for 100 dollars for the balance and interest. When the American claims were sent in both documents were brought against him, and he has been kept in prison for three years and a-half on a claim of 300 dollars. His mother died broken hearted, and when his wife went to plead with the usurer he pushed her, causing her to fall down a flight of fourteen stairs, with a child in her arms. The child received such an injury to its head that it died after six weeks' illness. The prisoner's mother-in-law was imprisoned for six months on account of the prisoner's debt. Two other prisoners were kept in prison for loans borrowed by their fathers, of which they did not even know the amount."

The following literal translation of a letter of the Governor of Larache to Consul Lewis is interesting as showing what even a Mohammedan thinks of the system of usury and extortion and horrible cruelty which has been allowed to grow up under the United States' flag in Morocco, but which is now happily ended:—

"Praise to the only God,

"Our friend, excellent Representative of America in Morocco, to whom God has given the love of justice and mercy and good works. God bless thee and all thy family, and increase the number of benevolent people like you in this country, that they may give justice in judgments and be merciful to the people. Amen.

"I received your letter, in which you speak of the great abuses and injustice done by those who have American protection in this kingdom and rebel against the Moorish Law and Moorish Rulers, compelling the people by force and violence to pay money, obliging them to give what they ask or to lose their lives in prison and in torture, and this for no crime at all. You command the immediate release of all those who are in

prison in this district on account of the American claims. You also command me not to accept as an American protégé any one unless I have been duly notified by you that he is such. You have also told me that henceforth no man shall be flogged or imprisoned for debt to an American citizen or protégé, but treated according to the Law of Ehraa. I have understood all this. I have released every one in prison on account of American debts as you told me. All the Mohammedan people are rejoicing and thanking you, and asking God to give you good recompense for releasing the poor miserable captives.

"May God accept your works.

"(Sealed by the Governor of Larache)."

The Khalifa of Al Kasar, where Mr. Varley also released prisoners confined on alleged American claims, expressed his earnest thanks in like manner, saying it relieved him from the necessity of inflicting on innocent men the terrible horrors of a Moorish dungeon. He showed Mr. Varley the prison through the window, which serves also as a door, in which these victims were confined; but said: "I cannot let you go further in. I am ashamed of the miseries such penetration would unfold to you."

The French and Italian Ministers at Tangier and the *Chargé d'Affaires* of the British Legation have all waited upon Consul Lewis to tender their congratulations on the action taken by the United States' Government in abolishing this horrible system. The only marvel is that it should have been tolerated so long. It may be added that Secretary Bayard has acknowledged in the most earnest and graceful manner the services rendered by Consul Lewis and Mr. Varley in this respect.

No. 224.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Hatzfeldt.*

M. l'Ambassadeur,

*Foreign Office, June 14, 1887.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the communication which Baron Plessen was good enough to leave with me on the 25th ultimo, in regard to the refusal of the Sultan of Morocco to make any commercial concessions so long as the provisions of the Madrid Convention of 1880, respecting the protection of Moorish subjects, remain in force.

I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur with the German Government in the opinion that it would be to the interest of all concerned that the abuses which have arisen in connection with the practice of protection in Morocco should be brought to an end. They are disposed to think that the failure to observe the provisions of the Convention is not only indefensible in principle but a serious impediment to the improvement of commercial relations with the Sultan, whilst it retards the progress of civilization in Morocco; and they had accordingly, before the receipt of Baron Plessen's communication, decided to ascertain the views of the Governments of Germany, Italy, and Spain as to the expediency of making a representation to that effect to all the Powers who are parties to the Convention, and also inviting them, at the same time, to consider in what respect the provisions of the Convention are objectionable in practice and what modification of them might fairly be proposed, on the understanding that any new arrangements should be scrupulously observed.

A despatch to the above effect was addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier early last month, and I think it not impossible that he may already be in communication with his German, Spanish, and Italian colleagues upon the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 225.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.*

(No. 361. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 56, Confidential, of May 7; and No. 50, Confidential, to ditto, dated June 2, 1887: ante, Nos. 215 and 218.]

No. 226.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1887.*

[Transmits extract from Mr. Kirby Green's No. 56, Confidential, of May 7, 1887 :  
*ante*, No. 215.]

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No. 227.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\**

(No. 374.)

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Baron Plessen's communiqué of May 25; and of note to Count  
Hatzfeldt of June 14, 1887 : *ante*, Nos. 213 and 224.]

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No. 228.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.†*

(No. 382.)

*Foreign Office, June 23, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir L. West's No. 139 of May 30, 1887 : *ante*, No. 223.]

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\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 189), Sir E. Malet (No. 223), Sir Clara Ford (No. 66), and Mr. Kirby Green (No. 41).

† Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 192), Sir E. Malet (No. 227), Sir A. Paget (No. 113), Sir Clara Ford (No. 59), Mr. Kirby Green (No. 52), Mr. Petre (No. 23), Mr. Corbett (No. 26), and Mr. Gosselin (No. 90).